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HISTORICAL SKETCH

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OF THE

Town of Pawtucket.

PREPARED BY

REV. MASSENA GOODRICH

PER VOTE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

PAWTUCKET:

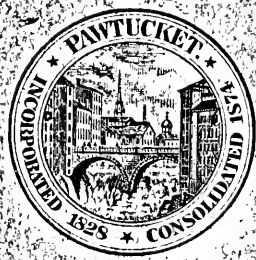
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HISTORICAL SKETCH



TOWN OF PAWTUCKET

1876

1820223

P R E F A C E .

IN writing the following sketch I have tried to fulfill the wishes of both our National and State legislators. I suppose that the desire of Congress in recommending the writing of local histories on this Centennial year, was to secure for preservation an outline of the experiences of the various towns and cities in the work of planting and forming their little municipalities, and to show what growth they have attained. I presume that the special desire of the General Assembly of our State was to embody, in addition to the information named, an account of the industrial affairs of the various towns in our Commonwealth. To learn what branches of manufacture have been established among us, what inventions have been perfected, and what development productive industry has attained, is one result they had in view.

I have therefore prepared a sketch. The time allotted me was too short to undertake anything more. To read the records of two or three towns for centuries, to ransack the archives of our State and of the shire town of Bristol county, to examine land titles and old manuscripts, would be pleasant for a man of an antiquarian taste, but would demand months of toil. Were a voluminous history of the town desired, however, all this and more would be demanded. But as I do not suppose that this was what our legislators desired, I have proposed to myself a less ambitious aim. Without undertaking much original research, I have gleaned from books and papers the more interesting facts pertaining to the town, and condensed and arranged them in a convenient form. To many of the citizens some of the facts will be new; to almost all of them they will prove pleasant reminders

of facts unknown or half forgotten. I have borrowed from both books and newspapers without scruple. Of course, in many cases I have had to read a great deal to learn a little. It is sufficient therefore to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Rhode Island Colonial Records, to Judge Staples's Annals, to Arnold's History of Rhode Island, to Bliss's History of Rehoboth, to Bishop's History of Manufactures, to Memoirs of the Wilkinson Family, especially to the Reminiscences published over twenty years ago by the late Dr. Benedict, in the Pawtucket Gazette and Chronicle, and to many other books and pamphlets. As far as possible, I have verified the facts stated in the various books named, by oral inquiry.

The reader will notice, too, that I have tried to give an account of the various branches of manufacturing industry in the town. In doing this I have studied brevity. Nobody but one who has undertaken to gather such statistics, knows how much time and pains are needful to collect them, and specially to ascertain their connection with previous establishments. Perhaps the details may seem meagre; it had been easier in many cases to make them four times as voluminous. I have thought, however, that they would be more likely to be studied, if brief. In gaining the information sought, I have had to tax the time of agents and proprietors a little, but I take pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy generally extended to me.

I must not close, however, without acknowledging my special indebtedness to a few friends. Capt. James S. Brown has taken great interest in the work I undertook, and has supplied a great deal of information. Though I have been to him again and again, the courteous invitation has been repeated, "Call whenever you please, and if I can help you with facts, I shall be ready to do so." Mr. Franklin Rand has also shed much light on matters; and Mr. James Greene, who is an enthusiast on the local history of Pawtucket, has brought forth his treasures for my inspection. To the esteemed Dr. Blodgett, too, to Mr. Alden Sibley, and to Mr. Henry Jerauld, as well as others whom I have not time to name, I offer my hearty thanks for information furnished.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THE Blackstone river, which commemorates the fame of the first settler of Boston, has its source near Worcester, Mass., and seeks the waters of Narragansett Bay. Vexed for almost its entire course by rapids, it makes its final plunge over the Pawtucket Falls. According to etymologists, the word *Pawtucket* signified in the dialect of the aborigines *falls of water*. This name was formerly applied to the entire stream, but now designates the river below the falls, which conveys the waters of the Blackstone to the bay. And the word also designates one of the chief manufacturing towns of Rhode Island.

The present town of Pawtucket lies on both sides of the river. The section lying east of the stream, however, was for over two centuries a part of Massachusetts. When constituted a distinct town by that State, it contained about four square miles of territory. The portion west of the river has always been a part of Rhode Island. For more than a century it was known as the village of Pawtucket in the town of North Providence. As the resolution of the General Assembly of our State, under which this history is prepared, fitly provides that the sketch shall start from the very foundation of the town, an outline of the political history of the separate villages named, prior to their being united in one township, is demanded.

Our fathers were men of profound religious natures. Roger Williams devoutly recognized the hand of God in shielding him from grave perils, and in guiding him to the region where he was to found a State. He therefore called the territory which he had purchased from the Indians, and which he and his few comrades were settling, *Providence*. Originally it embraced nearly all of what is now known as Providence county, and a part of Kent county. The settlers of the eastern side of the river also showed their reverence for the divine word by choosing a fitting name for their settlement from the Old Testament. They called it *Rehoboth*. According to Gesenius that word signifies in Hebrew, *streets, wide places, ample room*. And ample room the little band had for a township; for it embraced in the outset what has since become the towns of Seekonk, the former Pawtucket, and the town which bears the original name. And by a subsequent purchase it annexed what afterwards became Attleborough, Mass., and Cumberland, R. I.

It was within the bounds of what soon became Rehoboth, indeed, that Roger Williams first settled. Everybody knows that he fled in haste from Salem, Mass., early in 1636, to avoid being seized and shipped to England as a schismatic. At Salem or Plymouth, however, he had made the acquaintance of Massasoit, Sachem of the Wampanoags, and of Canonicus and Miantonomi, Chief Sachems of the Narragansetts. The former tribe, it must be recollected, had become tributaries to the latter. After Williams's flight from Salem, he went to Seekonk, and procured from Massasoit a grant of land at Manton's Neck, on the Seekonk river, and began to build and plant near what is now the Cove Mills. But a friendly letter from Gov. Winslow apprises him that he is within the bounds of the Plymouth patent, and counsels him to cross the river, by which he would go beyond any English claim. Williams discovers that the Governor fears that the Massachusetts Bay Company will deem Williams's further occupation of his present abode an affront; and as Gov.

Winslow prudently tells him that the Pilgrims at Plymouth "are loath to displease the Bay," the exile resolves not to embroil the other colonies in strife. Late in the spring, or early in the summer of 1636, therefore, he crossed the river, and entered for purposes of settlement the limits of Providence.

From the two Sachems of the Narragansetts he obtained a grant of land, of a somewhat indefinite extent. Who does not enjoy the antique spelling of Indian names?

"At Nanhiggansick the twenty-fourth of the first month commonly called March, in the second year of our plantation or planting at Mooshausick or Providence. Memorandum, that we Canaunicus and Meauntunomi the two chief sachems of Nanhiggansick, having two years since sold unto Roger Williams, the lands and meadows upon the two fresh rivers, called Mooshausick and Wanasquatucket, do now by these presents establish and confirm the bounds of those lands, from the river and fields at Pawtucket, the great hill of Neotaconkonitt on the northwest, and the town of Mashapauge on the west. As also in consideration of the many kindnesses and services he hath continually done for us, . . . we do freely give unto him all the land from those rivers, reaching to Pawtuxet river, as also the grass and meadows upon the said Pawtuxet river."

A word in explanation of some of the phraseology in this document, and on another point, may be allowed. The civil year at that period began on the twenty-fifth of March. That month was therefore fitly styled the first month of the year. The date mentioned, however, is the last day of the dying year. Probably the pioneers associated with Williams were growing importunate for some title to their lands, and Mr. Williams himself had perhaps promised that he would furnish some evidence of proprietorship before the year closed. But there is an appendix to the deed above quoted to the following effect:

"1639. Memorandum 3 mo. 9th day.

"This was all again confirmed by Miantonomi, he acknowledged this his act and hand, up the streams of Pawtucket and Pawtuxet without limits, we might have for our use of cattle.

Witness hereof

ROGER WILLIAMS,
BENEDICT ARNOLD."

But did such deeds fully extinguish the original rights in the soil? Not at all. Such grants merely conveyed the jurisdiction, as it were, of the territory. The several Sachems simply divested themselves of what right they possessed. After this, those Indians who had planted special tracts of land, or who had reared wigwams, were to be compensated. In some cases individuals bought of private Indians their clearings or abodes; in others, the community bought out the different aborigines; but both prudence and the honorable sentiments cherished by many of the settlers, forbade their practicing any coercion toward the sons of the forest. By consequence, there long remained in the town and neighborhood of Providence, Indians who claimed and occupied little clearings.

As illustrating the fact that repeated applications were made for payment of the same territory, the following document, printed in both the Rhode Island Colonial Records, and Judge Staples's Annals of Providence, shows. It may be the more fitly quoted, because it seems to embrace the very territory whereon the western division of Pawtucket stands. Ousamequin, who is also known as Massasoit, chief of Paukanawket, contracted to sell the piece of land in question, and then refused to sign the deed. Hereupon the parties who made the trade presented the following report:

"Wapewasick over against Portsmouth, }
10, 7, 46, (so called.) }

"We, Gregory Dexter, Tho: Olney, Roger and Robert Williams in a word of truth and faythfulness declare that being requested by y^e Town of Providence in oure owne and their behalf to buy y^e right which Ousamequin pretendeth to a parcell of Land which

lies between our bounds at Pawtucket and an Indian Plantation northwest from thence Loquasqucit, and knowing y^e our Towne had right to y^e feeding and grazing of cattle upon y^e said parcell of land, by our grant of y^e Nanhigganset purchase before such times as they since released him of his subjection, as also y^t it was upland from y^e water, and most of it barren and rockie, without meadow; soe making a journey to Ousamequin's house, offered him but fifteen fathom of white wampum (it being a time when white wampum only was current; and which we knew he only would accept.) But he desired to have commodities and wampum, and at last we agreed upon ten fathom of white wampum, four coates of English cloth, six of the best English howes and English axes, and twelve great knives; which wampum and commodities he desireing speedie pay of, we went, all of us over to Portsmouth to procure y^e said wampum and commodities; he furnishing us with a canew and a native; where some of us performed good service for him in some controversies between the English and him. We brought him y^e wampum which he accepted of, y^e coats also which he accepted of and received the cloth, choosing out of two parcells, but of twelve knives he chose eight; out of six howes, he chose one, we promising to procure y^e rest of the howes and hatchets and knives to his liking, which he was fully content. Afterward going to sleepe he begged two coats of us, which we promised to give him; yet in the morning, some of us refusing to sell him shott, as also our all refusing to give him foure coats more, he took forth our monie and goods again to us, which we refused, not being willing to countenance such dealing in y^e barbarians; and having before in their payments and a coate to his counsellour which he desired, and some other small gifts unto them layed out, y^e valew of about forty fathom of wampum, we were not willing to wrong our country in granting his desire of foure coats, and so unreasonably to raese y^e price of such parcells of land in this barbarous wilderness; and therefore we declare y^t y^e said land according to a fair and righteous bargain belongs to the Towne of Providence, the Towne paying to Ousamequin, as aforesaid.

ROGER WILLIAMS,
ROBERT WILLIAMS,
GREGORY DEXTER,
THO: OLNEY."

Over two centuries and a quarter have passed since the transactions so quaintly described took place; how does the record seem? Does it tarnish the fair fame of Roger Williams or Gregory Dexter? Not one whit. Ten years before, Williams had bought the sovereignty of the region from the Narragansett Sachems. At that time Ousamequin was subject to those chiefs. It is not easy to see how he had regained any proprietorship in the land whereof he had been despoiled by war. What the town of Providence did therefore in the case was in the spirit of a maxim somewhat current in our own day: that "it is better to feed the Indians than to fight them." When Williams and his associates saw, however, that the more they yielded to the chieftain's exactions, the larger his demands grew, they might prudently decide that, as the land was theirs before, it was not worth while to buy it again at too high a price.

The facts already named suggest fruitful causes of misunderstanding and bickering in the extensive town of Providence. Bounds were not accurately defined; persons that had paid individual Indians for their improvements thought it hard that the original proprietors should be asking of them compensation for the original purchase of the territory and subsequent improvements; many were living in the distant outskirts who found it inconvenient to attend the numerous town meetings; and if they came to them, they found interests clashing. A remedy for some of these evils was sought in the formation of new towns; and the territory of Providence was curtailed. Smithfield, Gloucester, Scituate, Johnston, and Cranston, were successively cut off; and in 1765 the town of North Providence was constituted, and embraced what was described in the first deed quoted as the fields of Pawtucket. And in the course of a few years, as has already been mentioned, a village grew up along the western banks of the Pawtucket river, which bore the name of the village of Pawtucket.

But the eastern side of the river claims attention. It has

already been said that Rehoboth formerly justified its name. It will be recollected too, that Williams began his earliest settlement on the eastern shore of the Seekonk or Pawtucket river. As he soon crossed the stream, however, and obtained an ample grant of land from the Narragansett Sachems, he doubtless advertised Massasoit that he laid no further claim to the territory originally granted him. In about five years, therefore, the chief of the Wampanoags disposed of the region to two of the inhabitants of Plymouth. These men were John Brown and Edward Winslow. But they seem to have been acting in the purchase as agents for a company at Weymouth and Hingham. In 1644 that company removed to Rehoboth. Their spiritual, perhaps their political, leader was Rev. Samuel Newman. He was a man of much learning, and was for some years the pastor of their church. The tract first purchased, and which constituted the original Rehoboth, was by the current measurement eight miles square. As wild land was not then deemed of much account, however, the measure was so liberal that a more accurate survey showed it to be nearer ten miles square, and embraced, as has already been said, the three townships of Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Pawtucket.

The original deed of Massasoit is not extant. A quit-claim deed from his son and successor, the famous King Philip of this region, however, confirmed the grant; and he also conveyed for the use of the town a hundred acres more on the south side. This deed bears date March 30th, 1668. As it may be convenient to preserve it in connection with this sketch, a copy is subjoined:

“Know all men by these presents that, whereas Osamequin, Sachem, deceased, did, for good and valuable considerations, in the year one thousand six hundred and forty and one, give, grant, convey, assure ence offe, and confirm unto Mr. John Brown, and Mr. Edward Winslow, deceased, a tract of land of eight miles square, scituate, lying and being both on the east and west sides of a river now called Palmer’s river to the property and behoof of

the townsmen of Seacunk, alias Rehoboth: I Phillip Sachem, eldest son, heir and successor to the said Osamequin Sachem, do hereby for my self, mine heires, assigns and successors remise, release, and for ever quit all manner of right, title, claime or interest that I the said phillip Sachem have, or by any colour or pretence whatsoever might or ought to have to the said tract of lands Eight miles square, lying on the East and west sides of Palmer's river aforesaid, unto Mr. Stephen Paine the elder, Peter Hunt, John Allen, Henry Smith, and others, the selectmen of the town of Rehoboth; ffor and to the use of themselves and of all the other Townsmen of the said town, as they are respectively concerned and estated therein, and to the use of all and every of their heires and assigns for ever,—And furthermore I the said Phillip Sachem do hereby firmly bind my self, mine heires, assigns and successors to free and discharge, secure and save harmless the said Stephen Paine, Peter Hunt, John Allen, Henry Smith and the selectmen aforesaid, and all other the Inhabitants of Rehoboth, their heirs and assigns for ever from all former and other bargains, sales titles, and all other incumbrances whatsoever had, made, done or suffered by me the said phillip Sachem, or the said Osamequin my father deceased; or hereafter to be made, done, committed or suffered by me the said phillip Sachem, mine heires, assigns or successors. In wnesse whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal, the thirtieth day of the first Month, Called March, In the yeare of our lord one Thousand Six Hundred, Sixty and Eight."

Here follow the marks of Umptakisok, Phillip, Suncone-whew, phillip's brother, and peebee, counsellor. And a kind of appendix accompanies their signatures to this effect:

"be it remembered that Philip acknowledged before the ensealing and delivery hereof, that osamequin received full satisfaction of the said Mr. Brown and Mr. Winslow for the said Eight miles square, and ffor the hundred acres, lying on the south side of the bounds of Rehoboth, now called by the name of the Hundred acres to the use of the said town."

Philip had an elder brother, by the name of Alexander, or Wamsitta, who was associated, near the close of Massasoit's

life, with his father in the government of the tribe. This chieftain, in the year 1661, gave Capt. Thomas Willett a deed of what was called Rehoboth *North Purchase*. This tract embraced, as has already been said, the present towns of Attleborough and Cumberland. Five years afterwards, Capt. W. conveyed this territory to the town of Rehoboth, and thereby swelled its magnitude to the extent named.

Attleborough was severed from the parent town in 1694, and embraced most of the North Purchase. In 1746 Cumberland, which had previously been called the Gore, was cut off from Attleborough and made a separate town. The residue of Rehoboth remained undivided till 1812, when the town of Seekonk was taken from it. The dividing line between the new town and the old run nearly north and south. In Indian etymology, Seekonk is said to be a compound term, made up of the words *Seaki*, *black*, and *honk*, *goose*. This is the Indian name for the wild goose, which is partly black. According to Williams the adjective *Seaki* always loses the final vowel when combined with other words. The tract often styled *Seekonk Plains* is thought to have been a favorite haunt for wild geese, which often used to light in great flocks in the river and cove. To some ears the term *Seekonk* is not specially euphonious, and some tongues hesitate to pronounce the name. Dr. Benedict mentions that the Hon. Oliver Starkweather, who was the first Representative in the new town, was somewhat diverted by the awkward references which the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives would make to him. If he began a sentence according to parliamentary usage, by saying, "The member from —," he would check himself, as if shrinking from an unpronounceable name, and say Mr. Starkweather.

In due time, however, the same diversity of interests that had caused the division of towns on the western side of the river, compelled a division of Seekonk. A new town was formed, which assumed the name of Pawtucket. The act which incorporated it as a distinct town was passed on February 29th, 1828. The act provided that—

"The Northwest part of the Town of Seekonk, within the following lines, namely, beginning at a bend of the Seekonk river about forty rods south of the mouth of Beverage brook, so called, thence running a due east course till it strikes the ten mile river, so called, thence by said river till it comes to the Attleborough line, including the Island on which Kent's Factory is situated, also the bridge a few rods north of said Kent's Factory. . . . Thence Westerly on the Attleborough line till it comes to the Rhode Island line, thence Southerly on said Rhode Island line till it comes to the first corner, with all the inhabitants living thereon, be incorporated into a town by the name of Pawtucket."

The first town meeting held in pursuance of the foregoing act, to choose officers, and organize the town, was held in Rev. Mr. Greene's Meeting House, on March 17th, 1828. Oliver Starkweather, Esq., was chosen Moderator, James C. Starkweather, Clerk for the ensuing year, and William Allen, Treasurer. Messrs. David Bucklin, Elijah Ingraham and Remember Kent, were elected Selectmen.

How numerous was the population of the new town? It is not positively known. A census was taken, however, two years afterward, by authority of the General Government, and the following report was made: There were males six hundred and thirty-seven, and females eight hundred and twenty-one, making the entire number of the inhabitants fourteen hundred and fifty-eight. And it may wake the reader's wonder to see how economical were the notions less than fifty years ago. At an adjourned town meeting held on May 12th, 1828, the following sums were appropriated, in accordance with the recommendation of a committee appointed at a previous meeting, viz:

For the support of the poor,	. . .	\$300 00
For the repair of highways,	. . .	100 00
For the support of schools,	. . .	350 00
For the other town expenses,	. . .	150 00
Total,		<hr/> \$900 00

For years this town remained a part of Massachusetts. Meantime the population and business were increasing on both sides of the river, as will appear from the subsequent narrative. Common interests bound the two villages together. But it often seemed as if the old proverb, "lands divided by a narrow frith, abhor each other," was to receive a new exemplification in this region. The inhabitants of each side of the stream cherished a natural State pride; little local jealousies occasioned some friction; and in spite of the manifest advantage of consolidation, the day when it could be secured seemed far distant. A well-known citizen of the village of Pawtucket, R. I., who had resided there half a century, in writing of the future prospects of the two communities, while arguing the desirableness of a city organization, said in an article penned twenty-two years ago, "There will be a difficulty, to be sure, about the two Pawtuckets, on each side of the river, as neither Rhode Island nor Massachusetts will surrender its claims of territory. The two sections are choice portions of each State; and after the hitherto interminable controversy about the line of demarcation between them, and after having disputed by inches the riparian boundary, with high courts and councils to help them, it still remains unsettled. We cannot expect, then, that the affair will be settled in a summary manner."

Happily the aged man who expressed these fears, lived to see the desired consolidation secured. The long-standing boundary dispute between Massachusetts and Rhode Island was amicably adjusted in 1861, and the town of Pawtucket was ceded to Rhode Island. By proclamation of Gov. William Sprague, under date of December 21st, 1861, the decree of the United States Court was announced as to take effect on the first day of March, A. D. 1862. As one main hindrance was thus removed, other difficulties were gradually overcome. Antipathies and rivalries are oft mighty, but necessities are mightier still. In the course of a dozen years public sentiment became ripe for consolidation. The town

of North Providence was subjected to dismemberment. An important part of it was assigned to the city of Providence, and the village of Pawtucket was annexed to the town of that name. A major vote of the property-holders in each town was given for the measure. The portion cut off from North Providence and assigned to Pawtucket is thus described :

“Beginning at a point in the centre of the Blackstone river, being the southeasterly corner of the town of Lincoln, and the northeasterly corner of the town of North Providence; and running thence westerly, on and with the line dividing said towns of Lincoln and North Providence, to a point on said line, eighteen hundred feet west of the east line of the Smithfield turnpike; thence southerly on a straight line to a point on the line dividing the city of Providence and the town of North Providence, as hereinbefore provided, eighteen hundred feet, measured on said line, westerly of the east line of said Smithfield turnpike; thence along said boundary line and following the same, to the centre of the Seekonk river; thence along the centre of said river, to the place of beginning.”

The act took effect on the first day of May, A. D. 1874. At the election of officers the following gentlemen were chosen members of the Town Council, viz. : Olney Arnold, Claudius B. Farnsworth, John F. Adams, William T. Adams, William H. Haskell, James L. Pierce and Henry B. Metcalf. Gen. Arnold was elected President of the Board. Lewis Pearce, Esq., was chosen Town Clerk, and Mr. George W. Newell, Treasurer.

The same officers were reëlected in 1875, though Mr. Metcalf resigned his position during the year. In 1876 a new Town Council, with two exceptions, was chosen. The present members are Isaac Shove, William D. S. Havens, Jude Taylor, Francis Conlin, William H. Haskell, James L. Pierce and Edwin A. Grout. Isaac Shove, Esq., was chosen President. Messrs. Pearce and Newell retain their former offices. Hon. William F. Sayles has held since the consolidation the office of Senator in the General Assembly.

At the time of consolidation the population of the new town was not far from eighteen thousand. The number of inhabitants, as given by the State Register, on the following year, was 18,464. As there had not been much increase during the year, the number first named is deemed sufficiently accurate.

Perhaps space enough has been given to the municipal history of what now constitutes the town of Pawtucket. Another, perhaps a more interesting, branch now claims our consideration. The civil history of the place begins with Joseph Jenks. Respecting the time of his emigration hither, and the circumstances under which he came to the neighborhood of Pawtucket Falls, a distinct and doubtless a very trustworthy account has been preserved by some of his descendants. His father, who bore the same Christian name, is supposed to have come from England with Gov. Winthrop; and Lewis, in his history of Lynn, speaks of him in the following strain: "Joseph Jenks deserves to be held in perpetual remembrance in American history, as being the first founder who worked in Brass and iron on the Western Continent. By his hands the first models were made, and the first castings taken of many domestic implements and Iron tools." On the sixth of May, 1646, the General Court of Massachusetts resolved, that, "In answer to the peticon of Joseph Jenckes, for liberty to make experience of his abilityes and Inventions for y^e making of Engines for mills to go with water for y^e more speedy despatch of work than formerly, and mills for y^e making of Sithes and other Edged tools, with a new invented Sawe-Mill, that things may be afforded cheaper than formerly, and that for fourteen yeeres without disturbance by any others setting up the like inventions; this peticon is granted." In May, 1655, he obtained another patent for an improvement in the manufacture of scythes "for the more speedy cutting of grass, for seven years." The old English scythe, previously in use, it may be remarked, was a very clumsy instrument, short and

thick like the bush or stub scythe. His invention gave greater length and thinness to the blade, and welded a bar of iron on the back to strengthen it. Indeed, no radical change has been made in that useful instrument since his day.

In the interval between the two dates named, the younger Jenks followed his father to the new world. He becomes acquainted with the improvements that his father had made, and gains skill in his craft. But one circumstance breeds alarm in his mind. The population is rapidly increasing near Lynn, and making fearful havoc with the forests. It was long before the capabilities of anthracite had been found out, and forges and furnaces were wholly dependent on charcoal. The same enterprising spirit that had induced him to cross the ocean prompts him to seek a new home. Doubtless, as Roger Williams removed from Salem, when he fled to this region, he had left some friends there who were anxiously watching his career. Perhaps the fact already adverted to, that the Indians were growing fastidious about their hatchets and other tools, makes the colonists in this neighborhood solicitous that some skillful iron-workers should remove hither. Word soon reaches Lynn, therefore, that the shores of the Pawtucket are dark with a thick forest, and that there are cataracts on the stream, affording ample power to carry such mills as the elder Jenks has been devising. And the young man resolves to come to Providence Plantations, and naturally chooses for his new home a site near the lowest falls on the river.

The traditions spoken of represent that he came here in the year 1655. As his eldest son was born in 1657, perhaps he was already married, and his house is said to have stood on the spot on East avenue now occupied by Mr. Joseph T. Greene, who lives in the house reared by his grandfather Timothy Greene. It is supposed that his first purchase of land was made from a family by the name of Mowry. A copy of a deed of land subsequently purchased, however, was found by Dr. Benedict in the records of the Proprietors

of Common Lands, of which company Judge Staples was clerk twenty-two years ago. That deed was as follows:

"Know all men before whom these presents shall come, that I, Abel Potter, inhabitant of Moshanicut, in the Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations, have sold unto Mr. Joseph Jenckes, inhabitant of the Town of Providence, in the Colony aforesaid, sixty acres of land, more or less, which was formerly laid out to my wife Rachel's grandfather, Mr. Ezekiel Holliman, lying near Pawtucket Falls, together with a *commonage*, the said threescore lot and commonage having been bequeathed to my said wife Rachel Potter, formerly called Rachel Warner; I say, I, Abel Potter, aforesaid, have, with the consent of my wife Rachel, freely sold the said threescore of land, situated and lying in Providence township, bounded near the southeast corner by a white oak tree, running westerly and northerly by a threescore acre lot formerly laid out to Mr. Stukely Westcot, and fronting easterly against the land of Mr. Dexter's against the river, and also fronting unto the Falls. I say, I, Abel Potter, aforesaid, have freely sold the threescore acres of land, together with a right of *commonage* and such privileges as do appertain thereunto, unto Joseph Jenckes for full satisfaction and valuable in hand paid and received; and therefore I do by this act, freely pass it from me, and my wife Rachel Potter, our heirs, Executors and Administrators, unto Joseph Jenckes his heirs executors administrators and assigns for ever, peaceably to enjoy without any lot [let?] or molestation from us, or any claiming by, or under Ezekiel Holliman aforesaid, or by or under us. As witness my hand and seal the 10th of October, 1671, in Warwick.

Signed sealed and delivered, and in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles.

In presence of us—
JOHN GREENE Assistant
ANNE GREENE

ABEL ^{his} × POTTER
mark

"This is to certify that Rachel Potter aforesaid, as formerly consented to the sale, so likewise she doth now declare her assent, to the Deed of sale aforesaid in presence of me.

JOHN GREENE, Assistant.

Warwick this 15th day of April 1672."

One can imagine the grim smile that played on the countenance of Mr. Jenks, as he read the second paragraph quoted. He had come from England about the time when this "Sovereign Lord King Charles" is represented to have begun his reign, and knew that he was then a vagabond; and that the only king which Great Britain had for years was one Oliver Cromwell, the ablest ruler that that kingdom has had for at least three centuries.

But it may be worth while to mention one or two other facts. The term *commonage* occurs several times in this deed. What does it mean? In the language of Judge Staples, "A right, *pro rata*, in all the unappropriated lands in the Roger Williams Purchase of the Indian chiefs, which embrace almost all of Providence county, and part of that of Kent; so that this old settler might select his portions of wild lands all over this wide range of territory, and have them recorded according to the forms of law." Respecting the persons named in this ancient deed, it may be proper to say that the fact that Holliman, Westcott and Dexter held the tracts of land specified, is no proof that they ever lived upon them. Holliman is one whose name is very dear to the Baptist denomination. When Roger Williams and his associates determined to organize a church in Providence, they doubtless resolved to show by some emphatic act, that such of them as had been connected with other churches had sundered their connection with them. And Holliman was deputed to baptize Williams, and Williams in turn administered the rite of baptism to Holliman and the other members of the infant church. Holliman probably lived at Pawtuxet. The Dexter named was probably Gregory Dexter. Stukely Westcott doubtless lived in what is now Cranston; for the writer, less than two years ago, attended the funeral of an aged man in that town,—a lineal descendant, the fifth in succession from Stukely Westcott; and was told that the deceased had all his life occupied the rocky, but fertile farm, which contained the family cemetery, and which had passed

from sire to son without any other deed than the original grant. Mr. Westcott's property in this town was subsequently purchased by some of the Jenks family.

For some years but scanty annals remain. Imagination can easily supply some details, however. It is known that Mr. Jenks soon erected a forge; perhaps he quickly found out that bog iron existed near what has long been styled Mineral Springs; for before the Revolution a forge stood near the Moshassuck, where the ore was converted into blooms. Of course, he had a market for the products of his skill in Providence and the whole neighborhood. The fields of Pawtucket were mowed by the new kind of scythes which his father had patented; and hatchets and every domestic iron implement, needed for the comfort of the households in Providence Plantations, were made at Mr. Jenks's workshop. Blacksmiths and other workers in iron were trained and employed by him; wood-cutters settled around to chop down some of the majestic oaks and maples that overhung the Pawtucket; charcoal burners were busy under the lee of many a hill; a few farmers built their log cabins near the river; the Indians still frequented the falls for the purpose of fishing; and a little hamlet was thus formed on what has since become the site of a growing town. For twenty years affairs went on without any serious outbreak. Emigrants were frequently arriving; in every direction the virgin forest was becoming invaded; the smoke rose from cabins in more and more clearings; domestic joys were gladdening the humble firesides, and death making its wonted inroads in the little family circles.

But about a score of years after Mr. Jenks arrived here a storm broke on the young settlement. Its portents had been visible indeed for months. The red men began to meet with scowling brows the pale faces. Philip of Pokanoket began his machinations. Probably he simply guided the passions which had been burning in the hearts of his race. They had beheld with jealousy the steady growth of the English, and feared for their hunting grounds; and it only needed a leader

with genius to organize their forces, and combine their efforts, to hurl a thunderbolt on the intruders. Could Philip's counsels have been carried out, the conflict between our fathers and the sons of the forest had been more terrible; but the strife began before the chieftain's plans were fully ripe for execution. In 1675 the war commenced in this neighborhood. "On the morning of June 24th," says Hutchinson, "one of the inhabitants of Rehoboth was fired upon by a party of Indians, and the hilt of his sword shot off." The strife being precipitated thus prematurely, Philip was compelled in July to flee from his fastnesses toward the Nipmucks. His route lay within a few miles of Pawtucket, and, in crossing the great plain of Seekonk, he was discovered by some of the people of Rehoboth, and pursued by them. Rev. Noah Newman has the credit of leading his townsmen in the pursuit. Hubbard gives the following account of the matter: "The Mohegins with the men of Rehoboth, and some of Providence, came upon their rear over night, slew about thirty of them, took much plunder from them, without any considerable loss to the English." Who were these men of Providence? Very probably Mr. Jenks and some of his neighbors by Pawtucket Falls; for they would be likely to hear first of the valor of their Rehoboth neighbors.

For a few months there is a lull. The winter is burdened, however, by anxious misgivings. The blacksmiths, the woodcutters, the farmers around the Pawtucket, oft scan the horizon in apprehension of the tempest. Many a father commends his household to God by prayer at night, not knowing but that the war-whoop will break their repose before the morning dawns; many a mother sadly rocks her babe to slumber, not knowing but that the tomahawk will hush that infant's cries ere another sun shall set. In a few months the fierce storm once more howls. Philip returns from his flight, reinforced by stern warriors. He brings death to the very doors of our predecessors. One of the most tragical contests of 1676 occurred near Pawtucket. All the

spring, roaming bands of Indians had disturbed the security of the settlements in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Marauding parties had carried ruin to scores of firesides, and applied the torch to many a home. Something must be done to check these forays, and Capt. Pierce of Scituate, with a force of sixty-three Englishmen, and twenty friendly Indians from Cape Cod, was ordered to follow the Indians toward Rhode Island. On the 24th of March he reached Seekonk. On the second morning after, he marched with his little band toward the river, and soon fell into an ambush. The thick forests which overhung the Blackstone formed a covert for the subtle red men, and they hovered round the doomed band like a pack of hungry wolves. For hours the contest raged on the banks of our stream between Pawtucket and Valley Falls, till, when the shadows of that Sabbath evening fell, they enshrouded the lifeless forms of almost all of that little force. They had sold their lives dearly, however; for one hundred and forty of their foes were slain.

Rev. Noah Newman, the second minister of Rehoboth, furnished the following account of this contest to his friend, Rev. John Cotton of Plymouth. His letter is still extant:

“Rehoboth, 27th of the first, '76.

Reverend and Dear Sir:—I received yours dated the 20th of this instant (March), wherein you give me a doleful relation of what had happened with you and what a distressing Sabbath you had passed. I have now, according to the words of your own letter, an opportunity to retaliate your account with a relation of what yesterday happened to the great saddening of our hearts, filling us with an awful expectation of what further evils it may be antecedaneous to, both respecting ourselves and you. Upon the 25th of this instant, Capt. Pierce went forth with a small party of his men, and Indians with him, and upon discovering the enemy, fought him, without damage to himself, and judged that he had considerably damnified them. Yet he, being of no great force, chose rather to retreat and go out the next morning with a recruit of men. And accordingly he did, taking pilots from us, that were

acquainted with the ground. But it pleased the Sovereign God so to order it, that they were enclosed with a great multitude of the enemy, which hath slain fifty-two of our Englishmen, and eleven Indians."

Then follow the names of those slain. A few belonged to Rehoboth. And the letter continues :

"Thus, sir, you have a sad account of the continuance of God's displeasure against us; yet still I desire steadfastly to look to him, who is not only able but willing to save all such as are fit for his salvation. It is a day of the wicked's triumph, but the sure word of God tells us his triumphing is brief. O that we may not lengthen it out by our sins. The Lord help us to joyne issue in our prayers, instantly and earnestly, for the healing and helping of our Land. Our Extremity is God's opportunity.

Your ever assured friend,

NOAH NEWMAN."

What effect had such a tragedy on the feeble settlement at Pawtucket? Of course, it would breed the gravest alarm, were the inhabitants still residing there. The probability is, however, that most of them had sought refuge on the island of Rhode Island. The General Assembly had been appealed to, to furnish garrisons for Providence and Warwick, but excused themselves from any such expense on the score of inability, and counseled the inhabitants of those towns to take shelter at Portsmouth or Newport. Most of the citizens of Providence removed their families and effects, therefore; but sturdy Roger Williams and about thirty others remained. The smallness of their number, however, invited, rather than repelled attack, and on March 30th the town was set on fire. At that or some other time the forge in this village was given to the flames, and doubtless the torch was applied to the deserted cabins. Pawtucket for the hour was a lonelier solitude than when Williams forty years before began his first settlement at Seekonk Cove. The roar of the

cataract, swelled by the freshets of springtime, responded to the song of the birds that had returned from their southern journey, but man was not here to welcome the gleeful warblers.

A few months rolled away, and a change took place. The pious confidence of the pastor of Rehoboth was justified. The triumph of the wicked proved brief. Philip was killed, his warriors were slain, captured, or scattered, and peace and security returned to the little colonies. Mr. Jenks undoubtedly comes back as soon as possible, and rebuilds his forge. Again the creaking cart goes to Mineral Springs after ore; the wood-cutters and burners of charcoal resume their industry; the smoke curls upward from the river side, and the clang of the anvil is heard. About this time Mr. Jenks's eldest son reached manhood; but a large family,—four sons and six daughters,—were growing up like blooming olive plants about the father's table. Mr. Jenks seems to have been influential in political affairs, no less than in business; for the title of Assistant,—answering to Lieutenant Governor or Senator,—is always added in old writings to his name. His four sons also acquired distinction afterward in the Colony. Joseph was Governor of Rhode Island from 1727 to 1732; Nathaniel bore the title of major; Ebenezer was a preacher, and William a judge.

It has already been said that the house of the father stood on the present East avenue. It had the reputation of being the first frame house reared in the town. All of the sons built houses also, which were long landmarks here, and three of them are partially standing now. One of them stands on Mill street, and is said to have been enlarged by the addition of a part of the house wherein the elder Joseph Jenks lived. Tradition reports that in his old age his house was removed to Mill street, and annexed to the building named, and that he spent the evening of his days there. Old citizens have declared that in their boyhood figures were visible on the stone chimney of the edifice on Mill street, and that three of

them were legible. Some who in their childhood climbed up to decipher them, averred that they read the numerals 168—; but the final figure was illegible. This was the house of Major Jenks. Dr. C. F. Manchester has long occupied the house which was for years the abode of Gov. Jenks; though it has been so modernized that the Governor would fail to recognize his old home, could he return to earth. A third one of those houses stood till within a few days near the railroad track, between the station and Dexter street.

Of authentic local history of this period there is a comparative dearth. Is it not allowable, however, for fancy to sketch the outlines of the hamlet destined in less than two centuries to become so thriving a town? She invites the reader to visit the neighborhood of the falls. Looking downward he discovers close by the river's side, a few rods to the south, smoke rising. He hears the clang of ponderous hammers, and, descending several steps, he sees swarthy blacksmiths plying their trade. Looking across the river he beholds a dense growth of wood. In every direction forests stretch, and stately trees overhang the brink of the stream. Here and there, indeed, smoke rises from some clearing, and he hears occasionally the tinkling of cow-bells in the woods. He glances toward the west, and sees that the forest has been partly cut off, and he notes particularly a muddy ravine, down which a brook glides, and up which carts struggle for the needed iron ore. That ravine will be paved before two centuries roll away, and called Main street. But the reader, thus yielding himself to fancy, notes beside this cart-path a few other paths to different clearings. He hears a hint, however, from Mr. Jenks, that he is going to visit his son Nathaniel in the evening. It is in April, 1689. The reader determines to be present in imagination at that visit. He climbs up from the forge, and surveys the scene more leisurely. Where he stands, a little above the forge, a massive stone bridge is to be built more than a century and a half later, but no bridge at all spans the river now. They who would

cross to the eastern side can find a ford just below the forge. He casts another glance up the ravine, and then turns to the right. There is no street which bears the suggestive name of Mill street, but a narrow path, overshadowed by the western woods, runs to the north, parallel to the river. In fact, there are two streams; one bears the name of the Little river, and is formed by a current that diverges from just above the falls, and flows nearly in the direction of the present Sargent's Trench. Indeed, there may be said to be three streams; for there is a depression in which, when the main river is swollen by freshets, a volume of water rushes along the gully, and which, subsequently deepened by human labor, becomes the famous trench that afterward figures so largely in litigation.

But it is toward night, and the sunbeams blaze through the grand old woods, and bathe with glory the forests on the opposite bank. The cart-path and narrow road are both nearly twenty feet lower than where one enters Jenks avenue to-day, and the reader looks *up* to the hills that lie to the west. Slowly sauntering up the northern path, gazing at the swelling buds of maple, oak, and chestnut, and listening to the glad songs of the bluebird and the robin, he reaches a new house. He stops to scan the style of architecture. The house faces the south, to welcome the sunshine. On the north the roof descends in a sloping direction almost to the ground, apparently on account of the rough winds that sweep from that quarter. A large stone chimney stands at one end, and occupies almost the entire breadth. In the front part of the house, there is one large room, which forms the chief dependence of the family. The reader looks at the fire-place. It is at least ten feet long, so that wood of full cart length can be rolled in, and send up its ruddy blaze, and throw out its glowing heat. The mantel-piece is of solid oak, and thick and firm enough to support the mass of stone above. The fire-place, deep as it is, oft forms a cozy nook, where the mother, in one corner, plies her small spinning-

wheel, and the children huddle in the other. The rooms are all very low, and the head of a tall man comes inconveniently near the ceiling. As the reader proposes to occupy but little room, he has no scruple in crossing the threshold. Nathaniel and his family are at home. In the gray of the evening the father arrives; but soon another visitor appears. The reader looks up to him; for there is need. A very Saul among his townsmen, "from his shoulder and upward, he seemed higher than any of his people." Who is this man that has to bow his head so low to enter the door? He is the eldest son of the founder of Pawtucket; a man of intellect as commanding as his presence, destined to play an important part in the affairs of the Colony, and to be for years its Governor. Joseph Jenks of Lynn is dead; the founder of Pawtucket is Joseph senior, and the new comer is Joseph junior.

But the reader sees from the expression of the taller son's countenance that he has stirring news to tell. He has been to the larger village four miles away, and found one story in everybody's mouth. A ship has just arrived in Boston from England. Our Sovereign Lord King James Second has been roughly thrust from his throne. His daughter Mary's husband, William of Orange, has come over from Holland, and Lords and Commons have welcomed him, and perchance, the colonies must recognize new monarchs. The father is startled at the news, and tells his children and the eagerly listening daughter-in-law of the stormy scenes that were enacting in the land of his birth, more than forty years before, when he set sail for the new world, and left cavaliers and roundheads to settle their deadly strife on gory battle-fields. Will William of Orange prove a new Cromwell? Will James the Second go to the block as his father went? Or will Great Britain see her fields again drenched with the blood of her children? Earnestly are these questions bandied, till the father and future Governor, warned by the lateness of the hour, turn their steps homeward, and reflect how, to-morrow, the dwellers in the few cabins across the

river will ford the stream, to talk with the owners of the forge and of these frame houses, about the stirring events that are happening across the Atlantic.

After thus letting imagination picture the condition of matters in Pawtucket nearly two centuries ago, it may be worth while to remark that the hamlet near these falls continued to grow for the next quarter of a century. The main village of Providence was becoming more populous and enterprising. Commerce had sprung up, and many a vessel was despatched on coasting voyages, along the seaboard, or sent to foreign ports. It was a century or more after this before steam-engines were built to any extent on this continent, and the parent town looked to the iron-workers of Pawtucket for the supply of the heavier tools and implements. The Jenkses had obtained possession of much of the land on the western side of the river in this neighborhood, and had extended their operations. Judge Story, in giving his decision about half a century ago, in an important case before the Circuit Court, rehearsed the following facts as proved in the trial:

“The lower dam was built as early as the year 1718, by the proprietors on both sides of the river, and is indispensable for the use of these mills respectively. There was previously an old dam on the western side, extending about three-quarters of the way across the river, and a separate dam for a saw mill on the east side. The lower dam was a substitute for both. About the year 1714, a canal was dug, or an old channel widened and cleared on the western side of the river; beginning at the river above the lower dam, and running around the west end thereof, until it emptied into the river, about ten rods below the same dam. It has been long known by the name of Sergeant's Trench, and was originally built for the passage of fish up and down the river. But having wholly failed for this purpose, about the year 1730, an anchor mill and dam were built across it by the then proprietors of the land; and between that period and the year 1790, several other dams and mills were built over the same, and since that period more

expensive mills have been built there. In 1792 another dam was built across the river at a place above the head of the trench, and almost twenty rods above the lower dam; and the mills on the upper dam, as well as those on Sergeant's Trench, are now supplied with water by proper flumes, &c., from the pond formed by the upper dam."

This brief extract shows that early in the last century the buzz of machinery and the clangor of hammers prophesied that this would be in due time a manufacturing centre. Enterprise and skill were converting a wilderness which Williams and Gregory Dexter had so disparaged as "most of it barren and rockie, without meadow," into a thriving village. But the pioneers who had built their cabins higher up the Blackstone, and the farmers and fishermen of this neighborhood, were jealous of the obstructions at the falls. Shad, alewives, and some other kinds of fish, had been wont to spawn near Woonsocket, and the General Assembly of Rhode Island, in 1761, authorized that sovereign helper in all public enterprises in those days, a lottery, to raise fifteen hundred pounds, old tenor, for the purpose of making a passage around Pawtucket Falls, "so that fish of almost every kind, who choose fresh water at certain seasons of the year, may pass with ease." This legislation, however, did not fully secure the end; and about a dozen years later the General Assembly passed another act, making it lawful for any one to break down or blow up the rocks at Pawtucket Falls, to "let fish pass up"; and "the said river" was "declared a public river." If mere votes could remove ledges and annihilate cataracts, Pawtucket had been at this time a straggling country village, or a lonely, though lovely, forest. Private individuals used their puny powers, as the Indians had done ages before, to batter down the rocks; but the hand of the Almighty had cemented the ledges too firmly to allow them to yield to gentle blows, and the falls have remained to minister to human needs, and to furnish skill and enterprise with comparatively cheap power.

But it is time to cross the river, and make a little inquiry about the eastern part of the town. Traditions are less definite about the early inhabitants of this section, than those pertaining to the Jenks family. A few settlers were evidently allured here nearly two centuries ago. The navigable stream made journeying easy for the pioneer; the abundance of fish near the falls readily supplied an important article of food; the iron business afforded employment. On what is known as South Bend, not far from Hammond's Pond, stands an old stone chimney house. The name of its builder has not been handed down to posterity, but its style of architecture shows that it was reared about the time when the Jenkses reared their ambitious edifices. Somebody, therefore, was residing in that part of Pawtucket early in the last century. Another stone chimney house of similar style was standing near North Bend about three-quarters of a century ago, which was probably equally ancient. And the fact that many of the old deeds of land lying east of the river refer to a Mr. Smith as a former owner of the land, justifies the belief that, as there were men bearing that name among the first settlers of Rehoboth, one or more of them obtained possession of much of the territory of the eastern part of Pawtucket. Thus, in the year 1738, Samuel Smith is represented in an old deed to have bought of Henry Smith forty-eight acres of land on the east side of Pawtucket Falls, "bounded on land where the grist mill stands." Nine years later (in 1747) one or both of the Smiths conveyed the grist or "Corn Mill" to James Bucklin. And twenty-nine years later, (just one century ago,) James Bucklin conveyed this mill to his son John.

In fact, a still earlier mention is made of a Mr. Smith, in an ancient report to the Legislature of Massachusetts. The first bridge across the Pawtucket seems to have been built in 1713; and in 1716 the following document appears in the Massachusetts Colonial Records:

"The report of the committee appointed to consider and compute the charge of a highway to Pawtucket bridge, viz.: In pursuance of the written vote or order, we the subscribers, on the 28th of May, 1716, went to the bridge at Pawtucket, where we met with the persons that were interested in the lands where the highway should go; and, having discoursed with them, and viewed the same, do report that a way of two rods wide be left on the north side of the land belonging to Joseph Buckland, jr., beginning at the foot of the bridge, and so to run through the land of Henry Smith, till it comes to said Smith's house, being in length ninety two rods, is about two acres and a half, only allowing a turn to be made to the northward, about fifty rods from the bridge, to escape a great rock, which land we are of opinion is worth £3 per acre; and the making of a fence the length of the said way, if made of stone wall, will be 5s. per rod, to be allowed to the owner of said land; which way then to run from said Smith's house northward a quarter of a mile, when it will meet a way that was formerly laid out by Rehoboth, which leads into the country road by the great plain. The land, being two acres and a half, we value at 20s. per acre, without any charge of fence.

Given under our hands, the 14th of June, 1716."

NATHANIEL PAYNE,	} Committee.
MOSES READ,	
JOHN ROGERS,	

These facts render it very likely that some of the ubiquitous family of Smith were the first owners of the eastern district of Pawtucket. And the conjecture may be hazarded that John Smith reared one or both of those ancient houses named. Judge Story's decision implies that a saw mill was built on the eastern bank of the Pawtucket early in the eighteenth century. Of course, the noble forests furnished supplies for such a mill, and lumber was in demand for ship-building as well as for the rearing of houses.

Perhaps an incidental circumstance helped the growth of the village in the earlier part of the eighteenth century. It

has already been mentioned that the eldest son of the founder of Pawtucket became Governor of the Colony in 1727.* The frequency with which his name occurs in the colonial records shows that he was eminent for something beside his stature. As early as 1705 he was appointed a Commissioner in the vexed boundary question, and was reappointed again and again to assist in running the line. In 1715 he was chosen Deputy Governor, and reëlected at subsequent times. In 1720 he was sent to England to bring the boundary disputes between Rhode Island, on the one hand, and Connecticut and Massachusetts, on the other, before the King. In all these matters he showed such integrity and sagacity, that, on the death of Gov. Cranston, who had held the office of Governor for twenty-nine years, he was elected Chief Magistrate of the Colony. He continued to hold the office till 1732; but as, on his election in the previous year, he had given notice that he should not again be a candidate, he retired after five years' service. At the request of the General Assembly he removed to Newport while he held the governorship; but doubtless, during those years, he was wielding his influence to promote improvements in his native village, and secure the investment of capital there. And an examination of some of the dates given by Judge Story proves that some of the most important conveniences secured, were attained during Gov. Jenks's public life. He died on the 15th of June, 1740.†

* An amusing tradition is current concerning the Governor. When he was elected, feeling a desire to maintain the dignity of the station, and to wear a garb like that of the other colonial Governors, he sent an order to England for a cloak. From some blunder, however, on the part of his correspondent, the order was made to read for a clock, instead of a cloak; and a clock was sent. This clock remained in the possession of his descendants for more than a century, but is now owned by Mr. Alden Sibley, and is marking the flight of time as accurately as it did in England a century and a half ago.

† It is to be regretted that no monument marks the spot where the body of either Governor Jenks or his father was laid. The Governor was buried, (and probably his father also,) in a cemetery just south of Read street. The southern part of that street, indeed, formerly constituted a part of that cemetery. For some cause Governor Jenks's body was exhumed on June 2d, 1831. Other skeletons are said to

It were interesting to recount the successive establishment of different forges and mills, but only results are known. Gov. Jenks and the other descendants of the enterprising man who laid the foundations of this town, emulated the energy of their ancestor. The frequent wars in which the infant colonies were engaged with both the French and the Indians, oft turned the attention of the iron-workers in this country to the manufacture of firearms. Doubtless such were made at some of the mills on the Pawtucket, and Capt. Stephen Jenks is expressly mentioned as having manufactured muskets here in 1775. It is likely that, through the whole period of the Revolutionary war, his skill was often laid under requisition. Hints are found occasionally of the existence of other kinds of business. Mr. Ephraim Starkweather removed to the hamlet on the east of the river in 1770, and, in buying a certain tract of land, purchased also a potash establishment of certain merchants of Boston, who had long carried on the manufacture of potash here. Mr. Hugh Kennedy also came to the same hamlet about the middle of the last century, and began the manufacture of linseed oil. About the same time,

have been disinterred at the same time, and, after a period, were transported to the Mineral Spring Cemetery. From some strange neglect the original grave-stones were not reset, and report says that they lay around till they were broken in pieces. It were perhaps unprofitable to inquire at this late date, who was in fault in this desecration; but it seems sad that, after those earthly remains had been lovingly borne away, and committed to the earth with tears, rough hands should tear the bones and ashes from their resting-place, since contemporaries and children had passed away, and allow the tomb-stone to be so broken that "no one knoweth of his sepulchre." Cannot the place where that dust was laid be identified? And cannot the citizens of Pawtucket fitly commemorate by some suitable memorial the energy and forecast of the founder of the town, and the civic virtues of his illustrious son? Happily Dr. Benedict, in his history of the Baptists, has preserved the inscription which was on the tomb-stone of Governor Jenks. It is here subjoined:

"In memory of the Hon. Joseph Jenkes, Esq., late Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island, Deceased the 15th day of June, A. D. 1740, in the 84th year of his age. He was much Honoured and Beloved in Life, and Lamented in Death: He was a bright Example of Virtue in every Stage of Life: He was a zealous Christian; a Wise and Prudent Governor; a Kind Husband and a Tender Father; a good Neighbour and a Faithful Friend: Grave, Sober, Pleasant in Behaviour; Beautiful in Person, with a Soul truly Great, Heroic, and Sweetly Tempered."

Mr. Sylvester Bowers, a ship carpenter by trade, removed to Pawtucket, and set up the business of ship-building at the *Landing*. On the western side of the river also the same business was quite extensively carried on. **1820223**

It is probable, however, that the eight weary years of the Revolutionary war retarded the growth of Pawtucket. North Providence furnished some of the boldest soldiers of the war, and Capt. Olney doubtless had in his company recruits from this village. Some, too, of the inhabitants of this place were serving in the little navy which our nation had called into existence. The return of peace, however, was a signal for new activity. A family, whose energy, talents, and skill, were to contribute largely to the prosperity of Pawtucket, moved hither from Smithfield. Oziel Wilkinson was the father of five sons, all of whom were blacksmiths. For years, though living in Smithfield, he had done a great deal of work for the merchants of Providence. As he obtained his stock from that town, it had long seemed desirable for him to transfer his business to Pawtucket Falls, where he could obtain ample water power. But prudence forbade the step for a time. The British long held possession of the southern part of the State, and might at any time seize Providence. In such a case a marauding party could easily come up the Pawtucket river, and destroy the mills and forges at the falls. His customers, therefore, advised him to delay. But peace released him from the peril, and Mr. Wilkinson and his sons removed hither. Already the family had given evidence of inventive power. Mr. Wilkinson is said to have made cut nails at an early date, and is supposed to have anticipated every manufacturer of these useful articles in the world. The father and sons quickly turned some of the unused power of the stream to account. Providence long continued, indeed, to look to Pawtucket for all the heavier implements of iron. Anchors and such articles were manufactured here; screws in abundance were made; and the heavy oil presses of Nantucket and New Bedford were constructed at the shops in this place.

Bishop, in his History of Manufactures, speaks in the following strain: "Manufactures of iron, including bar and sheet iron, nail-rods and nails, farming implements, stoves, pots, and other castings, and household utensils, iron-works for ship-builders, anchors, and bells, formed the largest branch of productive industry in Rhode Island toward the close of the eighteenth century. A slitting-mill was built on one of the branches of Providence river. Another slitting and rolling mill, three anchor forges, two nail-cutting machines, and several other mills and factories carried on by water, were soon after erected at Pawtucket Falls. A screw-cutting machine, hollow-ware furnace, and several forges were also in operation." Indeed, the iron business at this time gave Pawtucket its chief fame. Steam engines had not yet made their advent into Providence, and all the heavy work for that place which needed water power and trip-hammers, must be done here.

The Wilkinsons were long household names in Pawtucket. Their activity and enterprise expanded the business and increased the population of the town. The fame of the father is pleasantly preserved in the park which he left unenclosed on the present Park place. Cities need lungs, and the town has fitly enclosed that park with an iron fence, and adorned it with trees which will in coming years fling their cooling shadows abroad. Four of his sons made Pawtucket their home for years. They constituted a couple of copartnerships, —Abraham and Isaac, David and Daniel. One of these sons, however, won more than a local reputation; and Pawtucket may justly claim a share in the fame of David Wilkinson. Well has it been said that "peace has her victories, no less than war"; and among those who have contributed to modern civilization, scarcely any hold a higher rank than inventors. Almighty God seems to endow some souls with special aptitude for devising contrivances to subdue the elements to man's control. The mighty powers of nature are almost made to do man's bidding, and are harnessed to the

car, the engine, the wheel, to lessen the strain on human muscles. Thus used, they purchase for our race leisure, and bring a thousand comforts within man's reach that otherwise he had not been able to enjoy. And David Wilkinson was one of the class to whom the aptitude named is given. From childhood he possessed a singularly observant mind. What seemed trifles to others, were to him the germ of some valuable invention. In a letter of his, where he is describing a new screw-machine, which he invented as early as 1794, he says, "the perfection of it consists in that most faithful agent, *gravity*, making the joint, and that almighty perfect number, *three*, which is harmony itself. I was young when I learnt that principle. I had never seen my grandmother putting a chip under a three-legged milking-stool; but she always had to put a chip under a four-legged table to keep it steady. I cut screws of all dimensions by this machine, and did them perfectly." Thousands of other lads had seen their kinswomen sitting on similar stools in milking, without noticing the consequent steadiness, or dreaming of any great mechanical invention based on the firmness of the tripod.

Beside the branches of business thus described, farming was carried on to considerable extent. A large part of the land on the eastern side of the river in what now constitutes Pawtucket was held by families bearing the name of Bucklin. The Buckland already mentioned was probably their ancestor. Their farms extended from the river to Seekonk Plains; and tradition speaks of an immense corn-field that stretched almost from the margin of the stream to Bucklin's Brook. It is probable, however, that the farms were poorly cultivated. Col. Slack came here about a hundred and ten years ago, and Mr. Starkweather just afterward, and found the land in this condition.

Up, then, to the close of the last century, iron was emphatically king in Pawtucket. But ere the century closed a rival appeared, which was destined to contest the throne. Cotton appeared on the stage. An interesting tale might be told of

the early attempts to spin cotton by water power in our land. Suffice it to say, that, immediately after the Revolution, statesmen, capitalists, and artisans, sought to establish new manufactures in the United States. The whole country was burdened by debt; importations from foreign lands were impoverishing us still more; and relief was sought from the necessity of depending on foreign spindles and looms. In Worcester and Beverly, in Massachusetts, in Providence and other towns, in Rhode Island, experiments were making previous to 1790, to find out whether the cotton needed in our land could not be spun beside our own streams. A few spinning frames and various rude machines had been brought from abroad to facilitate the experiment, and Moses Brown, of Providence, had purchased some of them and removed them to Pawtucket. Vain the attempt, however, to drive them by any of the water-wheels here. Why not obtain from England, then, some of the machines that were working so successfully there? Alas! that was interdicted. It was deemed the height of statesmanship in Great Britain at that time, to keep the rest of the world in a kind of industrial vassalage. If the British isles could be the workshops of the world, her rulers were ready to consent that other nations should furnish some of the raw materials, but they must not be allowed to expatriate any of her inventions or machines. During the Revolutionary contest, Parliament had decreed that any person who packed or put on board, or caused to be brought to any place for exportation, "any machine, engine, tool, press, paper, utensil, or implement, or any part thereof, which now is or hereafter may be used in the woolen, cotton, or silk manufactures of this kingdom, or goods wherein wool, cotton, linen, or silk are used, or any model or plan thereof, shall forfeit every such machine and the goods packed therewith and £200, and suffer imprisonment for twelve months."

And these provisions were no idle threat. Persons who disregarded the statute, and attempted to carry machines or models to some of the nations of continental Europe, were

arrested and punished as the law enjoined. And none of the English statesmen were disposed to relax such statutes in favor of the young nation that had broken the bonds which bound them to the land of their fathers. On the contrary, the same jealousy that had scowled on the infant manufactures of the colonies, burnt against the more extensive manufactures of the young republic. Instead of softening the statutes named, Great Britain enacted from time to time more rigorous laws, which showed her thorough determination to prevent any nation from borrowing her inventions.

About the time of the unsuccessful attempt of Mr. Brown, however, to set his machines in operation in this place, a young man in England was meditating emigration to the new republic. He has seen by the newspapers of his native land, that bounties are offered, encouragements promised, for establishing the manufacture of cotton goods in some of the States in our country. Pennsylvania, in particular, is very generous in her proffers. He brooded over the matter for a while, till his imagination was fired, and he resolved to cross the ocean. But he knows the peril of arousing the jealousy of the authorities, and he conceals from even his family the step he is about to take. No model, drawing, or plan does he dare take with him, lest it reveal his purpose and cause his arrest.

He makes the weary journey across the ocean, reaches New York in due time, and finds employment with a manufacturing company. The water power of the neighborhood does not suit him, however. The business wherein he is engaged is less agreeable than that to which he had been accustomed, and the fond dreams he had cherished seem unlikely to be realized. While thus perplexed, God directs his steps hither. Young Slater providentially meets the captain of a Providence packet, and learns by conversation of the attempts that Moses Brown had made to introduce the manufacture of cotton into Rhode Island. Without any delay the young Englishman writes to Mr. Brown. "I flatter myself," says he in his letter, "that I can give the greatest satisfaction in

making machinery, making good yarn, either for stockings or twist, as anything that is made in England; as I have had opportunity, and an oversight, of Sir Richard Arkwright's works, and in Mr. Strut's mill for upwards of eight years." Had Mr. Slater simply announced his ability to run machines already erected, or to make machines by the help of patterns wherewith he was familiar, one would not wonder at his confidence; but it manifested no small amount of assurance to profess to be able to make the requisite machinery. And this, when he had neither models nor drawings!

But Mr. Brown, though anxious to succeed in his new undertaking, is too candid to foster extravagant hopes. He tells the young man that he has transferred the business to Almy & Brown, and expresses his fear that those gentlemen can hardly give such encouragement as the youth can reckon on in his present place of business. (Mr. Almy was a son-in-law of Mr. Brown.) This is the strain, therefore, in which Mr. Brown writes: "As the frame we have is the first attempt of the kind that has been made in America, it is too imperfect to afford thee much encouragement; we hardly know what to say to thee; but if thou thought thou couldst perfect and conduct them to profit, if thou wilt come and do it, thou shalt have all the profits made of them, over and above the interest of the money they cost, and the wear and tear of them. We will find stock and be repaid in yarn, as we may agree for six months. And this we do for the information thou can give, if fully acquainted with the business. . . . We have secured only a temporary water convenience, but if we find the business profitable, can perpetuate one that is convenient. . . . If thy present situation does not come up to what thou wishest, and, from thy knowledge of the business, can be ascertained of the advantages of the mills, so as to come and work ours, and have the *credit* as well as advantage of perfecting the first water-mill in America, we should be glad to engage thy care, so long as they can be made profitable to both, and we can agree."

Happily Mr. Slater's gaze continues anxiously turned toward Providence rather than toward Philadelphia. Mr. Brown's letter bears date "Providence, 10th 12th month, 1789." The young man promptly sets out for Rhode Island, and quickly appears in Pawtucket. A word or two on his first host.

This was Mr. Sylvanus Brown, the father of Capt. James S. Brown. He was a good representative of the energetic class of men that peopled this place a century ago. During the Revolutionary contest he served for a time in the navy, and held the office of master-of-arms in the ship of Commodore Esek Hopkins. Soon after the return of peace Mr. Brown was engaged by the Governor of the eastern British Provinces to go to Halifax, and superintend the erection of saw and grist mills in some of those Provinces. Such was the fame of Rhode Island mechanics, that Mr. Brown was allowed to hire fifty from this neighborhood to rear the mills desired. And it casts a side light on the nature and extent of the iron business carried on here, to know that all the iron work required was made in Pawtucket. Mr. Brown was occupied in the Provinces nearly two years, and built seven saw mills and two grist mills. After his return he built Quaker Lane, which had been laid out; and, as surveyor of highways, extended it down to the Landing.

Mr. Brown was accustomed to relate to his family the circumstances of his introduction to Mr. Slater. In the latter part of 1789 Moses Brown came out to Pawtucket, accompanied by a young Englishman twenty-two years of age. On approaching his Pawtucket namesake, Mr. Brown says, "Sylvanus, I have brought to thee a young man who says he knows how to spin cotton. I want thee to keep him to-night, and talk with him, and see what he can do." Mr. Sylvanus Brown accepts the charge. On the next morning Moses Brown makes his appearance early, in his usual style. He is borne in a carriage drawn by two horses, and driven by a colored driver. He quickly accosts his old acquaintance.

"Sylvanus, what does thee think? Does the young man seem to know anything about spinning cotton?" Mr. Brown replies that he has talked with the young man, and that he speaks with great confidence, and really seems to understand about matters.

But the parties quickly proceed to business. Mr. Slater is taken to see the machines, and is not captivated by their appearance. Let Moses Brown tell the story: "When Samuel saw the old machines, he felt down-hearted with disappointment, and shook his head, and said, 'These will not do; they are good for nothing in their present condition, nor can they be made to answer.'" Probably there were others disappointed too. But is there not an alternative? Yes. Moses Brown doubtless quickly recalls the assurance which the young Englishman had given of his ability to make the needed machinery, as well as good yarn. Since he is here by Pawtucket Falls, and no one can question the goodness of the water power, why not let him reproduce the series of machines termed the Arkwright patents? Mr. Slater is ready for such an undertaking, but imposes certain conditions. His trial machines must be constructed of wood; a skillful mechanic must therefore be furnished, who shall be put under bonds neither to steal the patterns, nor to reveal the nature of the works. "Under my proposals," says the confident young man, "if I do not make as good yarn as they do in England, I will have nothing for my services, but will throw the whole of what I have attempted over the bridge."

But where can a more skillful wood-worker be found in Pawtucket, than the man at whose house Mr. Slater had been a guest? Mr. Sylvanus Brown is engaged to assist Mr. Slater in his undertaking. A contract is made by careful Moses Brown, to pay Mr. Slater a dollar a day for his labor while reproducing the coveted machines. It has already been mentioned that Mr. Sylvanus Brown had been occupied a short time before in constructing Quaker Lane. That lane was laid out a little more than a century ago by Stephen Hopkins,

Richard Waterman and a David Wilkinson. Probably there had been an older lane running between that and the river, but the new lane supersedes it. The land over which it run was originally swampy, and, for years afterward, after every storm and in the thaws of springtime, the road was a veritable slough of despond. The lane was so called from Benjamin Arnold, Oziel Wilkinson, and Timothy Greene, members of the Society of Friends. It answers to what is now the beginning of East avenue. The shop wherein Mr. Slater began the manufacture of his machines was on the lane named, and, some years ago, was the salesroom of a baker. A few years since, as it was to be torn down, Capt. Brown caused it to be taken apart, and the frame and other parts to be removed to his spacious lot on Main street. And it is his intention to have it reërected in the yard of his extensive machine shop.

The greatest secrecy was maintained in all the operations. The front windows were shielded by shutters, and the back windows covered by blinds. Mr. Slater traced his lines on the wood with chalk, and Mr. Brown cut out the parts, and fabricated the various portions of the machines. What power was needed was supplied by a wheel propelled by an aged negro of the name of Prime. He boasted a fuller name, or a brace of them,—Samuel Primus, or Primus Jenks. Having once been a slave of some of the Jenkses, he bore that reminder of his former relation to them. Samuel Primus, however, was not put under bonds; for he would have scorned to betray any secrets. Moses Brown watched the proceedings with eager interest, and reckoned it no hardship to come daily from Providence for that purpose. Mr. Slater and his helper labored industriously, and, in a few months, finished a water frame of twenty-four spindles, two carding machines, and the drawing and roping frames, necessary to prepare for the spinning; and soon after added a frame of forty-eight spindles. The time for testing the machines at last comes, and everything works satisfactorily but the carder,

Instead of the cotton's coming off in rolls, it clings firmly to the cylinder. Mr. Slater tries every expedient that he can think of to remedy the difficulty, but fails. Hope, which had hitherto buoyed him up, gave place to chagrin. He recollects the confident assurances he had given, and his boastful words seemed to him but swaggering. One thought indeed gives poignancy to his feelings. It is bad enough to fail, when one deemed himself on the eve of success, but he feared that he would be counted an imposter. Under the revulsion of feeling he almost resolves on flight. He tells Mr. Sylvanus Brown that such seems his only resort. But Mr. Brown gives him wiser counsel, and urges him to keep trying. The young man is still baffled, however, and announces his design to run away; Mr. Brown expostulates against such rashness, but determines on satisfying his own mind of the feasibility of the work. He fixes on his companion's countenance a searching gaze, and asks, "Have you ever seen one of these carders work in your own country?" "Yes," was the unfaltering reply, and the young man's hand was brought down resolutely on his knee to add emphasis to the answer. "Then it can be made to work here," was his mentor's response. While the matter was in abeyance, however, Mr. Brown, whose house was also on Quaker Lane, was compelled to wait a few minutes one day for his dinner. It happened that his wife had been using a pair of hand cards, which she laid down as her husband came in. Spontaneously he took them up, and discovered, as he examined them, that the teeth were bent somewhat differently from those on the carder at their shop; and the thought occurs to him that an alteration in the shape of the teeth may surmount the difficulty. After dinner he tries the experiment, and, to his joy and Mr. Slater's relief, the carder works.

Success is attained. Arkwright's patents are reproduced in America, and Pawtucket is to be enriched by a new branch of industry. Mr. Sylvanus Brown converts the parts of the machine which need greatest strength into iron. The forges

of the Wilkinsons supply what is requisite, and the perfected machines are set in operation in a small mill that stood, at the close of the last century, on the southwest abutment of the bridge which then spanned the Pawtucket. But that bridge was long since demolished to make room for a better structure, and the mill itself was swept away by the surges of the Blackstone in the memorable freshet of 1807. Work was begun in earnest with the new machines, in the fall of 1790, or the winter following. And to understand the comparative rudeness of some of the machines then employed, an extract from a letter of Mr. Smith Wilkinson, written years afterward, may be quoted: "I was then in my tenth year, and went to work with Mr. Slater, and began attending the breaker. The mode of laying the cotton was by hand, taking up a handful, and pulling it apart with both hands, shifting it all into the right hand to get the staple of the cotton straight, and fix the handful so as to hold it firm, and then applying it to the surface of the breaker, moving the hand horizontally across the card to and fro, until the cotton was fully prepared."

It is difficult at the present time, abounding as Pawtucket does with workshops and skillful artisans of every kind, to realize the obstacles that Mr. Slater was obliged to overcome in building even such rude machines. Drawings, models, and patterns he lacked; from the circumstances whereby he was surrounded, he had but a single workman to counsel him, and he one who had never seen such machines as he was aiming to reproduce; his sole dependence under God was therefore on the tenaciousness of his memory, his firm faith, and a dogged will. One alleviation of his lot, however, there was. He boarded in the family of Oziel Wilkinson; and Mrs. Wilkinson, true to the instincts of the sect whereto she belonged, extended to the lonely stranger the sympathy he so much craved. Here too he formed an acquaintance with the maiden who afterward became his wife; for, as is well known, he subsequently married a daughter of Mr.

Wilkinson. But Mr. Slater plied his skill in the narrow quarters of the mill mentioned for nearly two years; and found, at the end of the period, that several thousand pounds of yarn had accumulated on the hands of himself and his partners in spite of their utmost efforts to sell it. A small quantity sufficed at that early time to glut the market. The prudence of Moses Brown took alarm quite quickly, indeed, at the overstock; for when five hundred pounds had accumulated, he wrote to Mr. Slater, "Thee must shut down thy gates, or thee will spin up all my farms into cotton yarn."

The success attained, however, was a matter of gratulation. That in spite of the jealous exclusiveness of the British government, cotton spinning by water power had been acclimated in America was reason for thankfulness. Pawtucket had won new fame, and is justified in claiming to be the parent of scores of flourishing towns and cities that have outstripped her in population.

But before she could successfully vindicate this claim, other inventions must be perfected. To the thoughtful soul it is pleasant to note how God strikingly reveals His continued oversight of human affairs. When one invention has been made that is capable of working a revolution in a branch of industry, He speedily suggests to human genius other inventions that are needed to supplement it. The invention of the cotton gin quickly followed the successful introduction of Arkwright's patents here. That invention is pleasantly associated with the family of the most illustrious Rhode Island General of the Revolution. When Eli Whitney, a young man just graduated from college in 1792, was journeying to Georgia, he traveled in company with Mrs. Greene and her children. Mr. Whitney was in slender health; and, disappointed in the employment which had been promised, was glad to accept a home beneath the hospitable roof of Mrs. Greene.

A short time after he began his residence there a large party of Georgians paid Mrs. Greene a visit. Many of them

were officers that had served under her husband in the Revolutionary war. During their visit one topic earnestly talked about was the depressed state of agriculture, and the impossibility of increasing the cultivation of the green-seed cotton with profit, on account of the trouble and expense of separating the seed from the fibre. Mrs. Greene listened to the conversation for a while, and then exclaimed, "Gentlemen, apply to my young friend, Mr. Whitney;—he can make anything." To justify her language, she invited them to an adjoining room, and showed them skillful machines which Mr. Whitney had constructed for her own and her children's use. Introducing Mr. Whitney himself, she warmly extolled his genius and skill, and commended him to their confidence and good-will. Mr. Whitney entered into conversation with the guests, and frankly confessed that he had never seen cotton or cotton-seed in his life.

Mr. Whitney made no promises, offered but slight encouragement, but, after their departure, quietly went to work. The result is well known. In a few months he devised a machine that enabled a man in a single day to separate more cotton from the seed than he could separate without it by the toil of months. And though Mr. Whitney was defrauded of any profit from the invention, the country at large reaped immense benefit. Both America and Europe were released from further dependence on sluggish India for the raw material. The production of cotton in the southern States was between five and ten thousand bales in the year 1793; but during the current year, from September 1st, 1875, to September 1st, 1876, it will doubtless reach four millions and a quarter of bales.

After the experiment of Mr. Slater had so far succeeded, a new mill was erected. It was the comparatively diminutive building on Mill street, which now bears the name of the Old Slater Mill. In fact, the original edifice was much smaller than the present one. It was reared in 1793. And here came into play the inventive genius of Mr. Sylvanus

Brown. He quickly realized that, if the business of spinning cotton was to be extended, facilities were needed for speeding the manufacture of the requisite machinery. As early as 1791, therefore, he invented a slide lathe for turning rollers, spindles, and like articles; and followed it with an invention for fluting and planing rollers. His lathe was the first invention for turning iron; and he subsequently used it with certain alterations for cutting wrought iron screws for presses to press sperm oil. And other screws still were made by the same instrument. But the inventions first named were of immense value in hastening the equipping of the new mill.

During the year 1793 a slitting mill was built by Oziel Wilkinson, and a flouring mill by Thomas Arnold. It is alleged, indeed, that Pawtucket can claim that the first flouring mill in the State was erected within her borders.

The success of Slater's undertaking stimulated others to rear mills of a like character. In 1799 the second cotton mill in this town was begun. It was erected by Mr. Oziel Wilkinson, and his three sons-in-law,—Samuel Slater, Timothy Greene, and William Wilkinson. An advertisement from these parties, which has been preserved, has a kind of historic interest. It appeared in the "United States Chronicle," (a journal published in Providence,) under date of July 30th, 1801. It is as follows:

"SAMUEL SLATER & CO.

"The subscribers having erected an extensive Manufactory for spinning Cotton at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, near Pawtucket Falls, four miles from Providence, R. I., have entered into Co-Partnership under the above firm, for conducting the same, and now inform the Public that they are ready to supply any Quantity of Yarn, of almost every Number and Description, as Warp, Filling, 2 and 3 threaded Stocking Yarn, suitable for Weaving and Knitting, whitened or brown, Wholesale or Retail, at a short Notice. Their Yarn is at least equal, if not superior to any manufactured in America. Orders to any Amount can speedily be complied with, and shall be carefully attended to, by addressing

to Samuel Slater & Co., North Providence, or William Wilkinson, Postmaster, Providence.

OZIEL WILKINSON,
SAMUEL SLATER,
TIMOTHY GREENE,
WILLIAM WILKINSON.

N. Providence, July 15th, 1801."

Tradition represents that the impulse to the erection of the mill last mentioned sprung from dissatisfaction on the part of Mr. Slater with his former partners. He fancied,—whether justly or not is idle to inquire,—that they were ready to supplant him, now that they had, as they supposed, learned the business; and his sturdy father-in-law, as well as Mr. Slater himself, resented the injustice.

One can easily imagine the alarm which the prospect of another rival brings to the proprietors of the old mill. An amusing incident illustrates the fact. The expression *another rival* has been wittingly used. The mill built in 1799 was not the second cotton mill reared in this neighborhood, for *that* was erected in what was long called Robin Hollow, in the town of Cumberland. It stood on the site of the present Cumberland Mills, which may almost be claimed as a Pawtucket enterprise, since the buildings were reared mainly by Pawtucket capital, and the larger part of the capital stock is still held in this town. The earlier mill, however, was erected by Elisha Waterman; and the story is told that, after it got under way, the workmen came one day to Pawtucket, and marched in procession by the old mill, every one wearing a bunch of cotton yarn on his hat. While one laughs at such a stroke of humor, can he not recollect that jealousy of rivals is often as irrational at the present day as was that which impelled the amusing act just described? Such are the growing wants of the civilized world, such the increase of trade with uncivilized nations, that one can affirm about the matter of over-production, as Burke did a century ago about the population of the American colonies: "State the num-

bers as high as we will, while the dispute continues the exaggeration ends." Substitute the word *figures* or *products* for *numbers*, and a fact is stated which is applicable to almost any form of useful industry.

The name of Timothy Greene in the above quoted advertisement is a reminder that, at that period, he was an active business man in Pawtucket. His original business was the manufacture of shoes, but he enlarged it by engaging in tanning. He purchased a somewhat extensive piece of land between Quaker Lane and the river. He laid out a tan-yard along the banks of the river, where the mill of his grandsons now stands. To the south lay his famous meadow. In these later days the most the prognosticator of the weather dares do is to speak of *probabilities*; but three-quarters of a century ago the inhabitants of this place reckoned it a certainty, that the mowing of Uncle Timothy's meadow would bring rain. No matter how severe might have been the drouth, the mowing of that meadow was a signal for showers. The name by which he was called implies that he must have possessed a kindly nature.* One of his workmen gives the following

* One of Friend Timothy's grandsons has preserved his old day-book. Some of his charges and memoranda are curiosities in orthography.

In 1788, 8th 5 mo., the following charge appears:

GEORGE ALMEY,

To makeing Wastcoat and Briches,	10s
To picce of Linen to Line do.	6s

On 11th 5 mo. the following record is given:

"Nathaniel Croade Began to Bord with me this day to Give Eight shillings per week, to pay in Goods out of shop as he sells for Cash." And very good board he thus furnished, without doubt, at \$1.33 per week.

In the same year, on the 12th of 9 mo., the following charge is found:

OZIAL WILKINSON,

To Mending thy Wives Shoes,	2. 6
To a Pare Shoes for Isaac, and vamps and Bottoms for Abraham,	14.

But here comes a charge which does not read so well, Uncle Timothy:

JEROTHM^L JENCKES, Dr.

To a Hogshead Jemiaca Rum at 4.6 per Gallon, Comes to	£24. 6. 0
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Wert thou living now, we should not catch thee trading in any such article.

testimony as to his business: "We ground 200 cords of bark per year, while I worked for Mr. Greene. We tanned 1000 hides a year for him, and fulled 1500 for others." This was before the times, however, of forcing processes.

Before the close of the last century David Wilkinson perfected one of the important inventions which gave him his renown. It was that of the slide lathe. He completed it in 1797, and obtained a patent for it in the following year. So slow was the extending of the machine business, however, that but little pecuniary profit flowed to the inventor. The original patent run out before it came into extensive use, and Mr. Wilkinson was too busy with other enterprises, too intent on other inventions, to take the trouble to secure a renewal. But fifty years after the original patent was granted, Congress voted him ten thousand dollars as a partial recompense "for the benefits accruing to the public service from the use of the principle of the gauge and sliding lathe, of which he was the inventor, now in use in the workshops of the government, at the different National arsenals and armories." The Senate Committee on Military Affairs, was composed of the well-known Senators, — Rusk of Texas, Cass of Michigan, Davis of Mississippi, Dix of New York, and Benton of Missouri.

As early as 1791 Oziel Wilkinson built a small air furnace, or reverberatory, for casting iron, in which were cast the first wing-gudgeons known in America, which were applied to Slater's old mill. And so wide-spread was the fame of Pawtucket for skillful iron-workers, that in 1794 Col. Baldwin came hither from Boston after machinery for a canal then building, probably that to Lowell. At Wilkinson's establishment the patterns were made, and the wheels, racks, &c., were cast. At the same establishment the iron was cast for the draw for the Cambridge bridge about the same time. David Wilkinson, in conjunction with other parties here, had set up a furnace, and, by it, early in the present century, cannon were cast solid. They were subsequently bored out

by water power. "It was then the current conversation, that to Pawtucket belonged the credit of the first cannon cast solid in the world. They were bored by making the drill or bore stationary, and having the cannon revolve against the drill."

It is to this period of time that the remarks of Dr. Dwight, in his travels, in 1810, apply. "There is probably no spot in New England," he writes, "of the same extent, in which the same quantity or variety of manufacturing business is carried on. In the year 1796, there were here three anchor forges, one tanning mill, one flouring mill, one slitting mill, three snuff mills, one oil mill, three fulling mills, and clothier's works, one cotton factory, two machines for cutting nails, one furnace for casting hollow ware,—all moved by water,—one machine for cutting screws, moved by a horse, and several forges for smith's work."

In a former part of this sketch imagination was allowed to give a picture of this region nearly two centuries ago. A less ideal picture can be furnished of the aspect at the beginning of the present century, of the villages now collectively known as Pawtucket. The description which helps one paint such a picture was given by a well-known citizen. Dr. Benedict made his first visit here in 1804. About fifty years after, he gave interesting reminiscences of the condition of the place at the earlier date. His account, drawn from a retentive memory, refreshed by notes that he had taken, and by conversation with old natives and residents, enables one to form a fair idea of the appearance of the place in the year 1801 or 1802.

The only street on the eastern side of the river was the old road past the old Slack tavern, and out to what is now called North Bend. The southern border of that road run a little further to the south than now. Reaching its present extremity to the east, the main road ran toward Boston past the Dolly Sabin tavern, while there was a branch to the south, which is now known as South Bend. This street is

of course what is now Main and Walcott streets. On the western side of the river, Main street from the bridge upward was several feet lower than at present, and at times was one of the muddiest holes in the place. Much of the street was a mere ravine, through which ran a brook from the meadow above. The water from this source is now greatly lessened, and runs beneath the surface. East avenue, from its junction with Main street, till lately for years called Pleasant street, was then, as has been already stated, called Quaker Lane, and extended not much farther than where Pleasant street now begins. It was wretchedly miry in both spring and fall. What is now Mill street was but a narrow road up to Slater's mill, and extended but a little way beyond. Nobody was sanguine enough to suppose that a public road would ever pass the stone chimney house, through the fields of Ichabod and Stephen Jenks, and over the high hill which then stood between Pawtucket and Central Falls. At that time, indeed, there were two houses in what is now the flourishing village of Central Falls. High street was not laid out at all beyond where the High School building now stands, and very imperfectly thus far. There was but one Meeting-house, a very diminutive edifice, which stood not far from where the goodly temple of the First Baptist church now stands. The only other public edifice was known as the Red School House, and stood not far from the Meeting-house. It was used for all public gatherings of a secular nature, and frequently for religious assemblies, when other denominations wished to hold a meeting while the Baptist Meeting-house was occupied.

But how large was the population at that time? No census is extant; but the entire number of houses on the east side was seventeen, and on the west, about twice as many. Between fifty and sixty houses then afforded shelter to the dwellers on both sides of the river. But such figures may perhaps mislead; for it seems to have been common to crowd large households into small dwellings; and houses that afforded

but scanty accommodations to a single family were sometimes made to shelter two or three. The reader must therefore form his own estimate of the number of inhabitants.

Of the centres of industry more is known. The first Slater mill was running then, and the structure of Samuel Slater & Co. on the eastern margin of the river was in operation. The proportions of both those structures seemed doubtless huge. Hundreds had been in the habit of coming from all the country to gaze on the original mill, and wonder at its exploits. But what were its wondrous achievements? It spun by water power coarse yarns to be woven by hand in the farm-houses of all the surrounding region. Power looms were a dream of the future. But the yarns thus spun brought high prices, and were for a good while in such demand, that it seemed almost impossible to execute the orders that poured in for them. One circumstance that swelled the demand was that the goods made on the hand looms in the country from these yarns, seemed far more durable than the old fabrics made from the refuse of flax, or the coarse India cotton.

Beside the spinning of cotton, however, the bleaching business was carried on, but in a manner that would now be deemed quite primitive. The ground adjoining the old Slater mill to the north, where now stand the works of Messrs. Fairbrother, and many a building between Mill street and the Blackstone, was one great bleaching meadow. The fame of Mother Cole survives as the manager of the operations. Stakes were driven into the ground, and skeins of cotton were stretched from one to another, and the cloth was spread upon the grass. The matron named, with a small corps of assistants, sprinkled with watering pots the fabric thus exposed, and plied the drying sticks till the cloth and yarn assumed a whiter hue. A long storm, or a protracted period of dull or cloudy weather, seriously delayed the completion of the work, and taxed the patience of customers. Another bleaching meadow of like character existed afterward on the eastern side of the river, to the south of the bridge; and both of

them were supplied with water brought down Main street by aqueducts of wooden logs. One of them started from the western side of the ascent of Park place, and the other from near the corner where Main street bends to the south just above the Benedict House. An outlet of one of these aqueducts was at the head of Water street. The water from these fountains was deemed preferable for bleaching purposes to that from the river. The well-known citizens of Pawtucket, whose bleachery at Moshassuck cannot be spoken of at length without trenching on the claims of Lincoln, would hardly fear the rivalry of Mother Cole, could she return to earth to resume in her old mode her former business.

The forges, anchor shops, machine shops, foundries, oil mills, grist mills, and similar establishments, were all near the river, or along Sargent's Trench. The reader can fill up the outline of this picture by conceiving of the woods which crowned the ridge to the west of Broadway, and studded the swampy land that sloped to the Blackstone. A dense forest covered the region now occupied by the tasty grounds and extensive works of Col. Dunnell. And between that forest and the present thoroughfare from the stone bridge to North Bend were three farms, stretching almost from the river to Seekonk Plains. These farms belonged to three brothers of the name of Bucklin. On the west of North Bend other farms run back to the river, save where they were afterward divided by the turnpike. A few years before, on that part of Cottage street where Mr. William P. Allen now lives, stood a majestic growth of hard wood; but the feller had meanwhile come up against it, and leveled the trees, and the region was a part of large farms, poorly cultivated.

Perhaps the space may be profitably spared to give a livelier idea of the section east of the river, as it then existed. Be it recollected, therefore, that the house of Ephraim Starkweather stood at the apex of the triangle made by Main and Waleott streets. Just below that, on the site of the rectory of Trinity Church, stood the tavern of Col. Slack. From

Mr. Starkweather's to North Bend there was no house. The upper part of Walcott street, from above Grove street to Otis French's, was open land on the north side, and belonged to Col. Slack. Beyond Mr. French's house, on North Bend, stood an old stone chimney house, long since torn down. It was then occupied, however, by a venerable colored man, who bore a couple of names,—Prince Kennedy, or the Black Prince. The old Lyon house, the Dolly Sabin tavern, two or three farm houses between or in the neighborhood, the stone chimney house on South Bend, and N. Bucklin's house, near Bucklin's brook, complete the list in that part of the hamlet. Stretching from North Bend to the Blackstone, a little beyond the land mentioned as belonging to Col. Slack, was a strip of territory owned by Abiel Read and his sisters. Next on the north was the land of Ephraim Starkweather. Then came the farm of Baruch Bucklin. For years afterward it was in the possession of Mr. May D. Mason, who married the only daughter of Mr. Bucklin. Still north of this lay the farm of Ebenezer Bucklin. North of these were a farm of Samuel Slack, since called the Lavery place, and one of Ezra Barrows. Most or all of these stretched from the road named to the Blackstone, though destined soon to be cut in twain by the Norfolk and Bristol turnpike, which was on the eve of being built.

This leaves but few of the seventeen buildings unmentioned in the east village, and one of them was occupied by a son of Hugh Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy's house stood a little to the east of the Ellis block, and was joined by a garden which run back to the Blackstone. It was then deemed the most attractive garden in the village, as it possessed a great many pear trees. To the south of the bridge stood his oil mill, and on the other side a blacksmith's and wheelwright shop. In the latter shop were manufactured a multitude of old-fashioned spinning wheels, both great and small.

Of course, on both sides of the stream, in addition to the streets named, were a few lanes, which have since grown into

streets. One ran, for instance, to the ship-yard at the Landing, and others, in other directions. But most of the houses of the residents in the western village of Pawtucket, were upon the streets already named. High street, north of the present High School building, was covered by pines and scrub oaks. A few roads and thoroughfares, indeed, extended toward Providence and Smithfield, but the rest of the land away from the river was occupied by farms or pastures, or covered with forests. Along the river's side, however, the din of industry was heard. What is now Jenks avenue led down to the coal yard, and here were stored huge piles of charcoal for the use of forges, furnaces, and anchor shops; and the clangor of trip-hammers and anvils, the blows of ship-builders, and the buzz of machinery, told that enterprise and toil were busy by the waters of the Pawtucket.

About this time, however, an important convenience for the public was providing. It was the era of turnpikes, and the Norfolk and Bristol turnpike was chartered to open a more direct road to Boston. It was laid out four rods in width from the bridge at Pawtucket to the metropolis of Massachusetts. Oziel Wilkinson was always ready for any undertaking that promised to accommodate the public, and put money into his own pocket, and took a contract for building thirteen miles of the road, nearest this place. This was about the year 1804. The spades, shovels and picks for the laborers, were all furnished from his shops in Pawtucket. Greatly to the annoyance of some of the residents east of the river, the road, as it approached the bridge, was brought very near the stream, and spoiled some pleasant gardens. What is now known as Broadway is but the road-bed of the southwestern part of the old turnpike. For some years, especially after steamboats were put on the route between Providence and New York, that turnpike was a great highway of travel. Scores of stage coaches, crowded with passengers, daily hurried over it, and scores of wagons, groaning under their loads, journeyed to and from Boston. But the march of improve-

ment in less than two-score years blasted the fond hopes of its builders. The steam-car demanded the iron track, and turnpikes gave place to railroads. The result is adverted to in the account of a special town meeting held in Pawtucket, Mass., on February 11th, 1843, to consider whether the town should oppose the granting of the petition of the Norfolk and Bristol turnpike for authority to give up their road to the towns as a common highway.

The town very sensibly voted to instruct "their representative in the General Court, to appear before the Committee on the 15th instant, and to accept that part of the Norfolk and Bristol turnpike, lying within the town of Pawtucket, as a public road, provided the Corporation guarantee the said road to the town free of expense."

Sturdy Oziel found the turnpike a great convenience while he lived; for he could transport his goods by it to a market in Boston. A kinsman of his, in describing the rugged independence of the old man, remarks, that he was wont to carry his own nails to the city named, and sell them in quantities to suit purchasers; and it shows the effect of modern inventions in cheapening the cost of articles of daily use, to mention that Mr. Wilkinson accommodated both large and small purchasers by selling his nails to them at *sixteen* cents per pound.

Turning for a moment from details of business, it may be remarked that an incident happened, early in the century, which lived in the memory of old citizens, and is so oft referred to in common speech, that it deserves to be commemorated in history. An almost unparalleled freshet occurred on February 15th, 1807. It was a Sabbath, whose quiet was broken by the foaming surges. The Blackstone, like most of northern rivers, is liable to be swollen by great masses of ice and water, when a sudden thaw looses the frozen rivulets and brooks. The banks of the river at Pawtucket, however, are high enough to lift the houses above ordinary floods; but on the day preceding the Sabbath named,

a furious torrent plunging over the falls rose to an unwonted height, and reminded the beholders that the swollen waves can defy the interdict of any one save Him whose awful voice can say,—*Thus far, and no farther!* All night the torrent rushed and roared, and the trembling bridge warned travelers not to attempt to cross the stream. The bed of the river was filled to overflowing; Sargent's Trench became a boiling flood; and the surging billows revealed the bed of still another stream which centuries ago ran parallel with the main river. Mills and shops were swept away; and a few families that had seemed to linger too long in their homes were hurried to places of safety by strong men, who were periling their own lives to save others. In the gray dawn of the morning a loud voice was heard shouting in the streets, "Turn out, turn out; the water is running round Jerahmeel Jenks's stone wall!" In the very crisis of the freshet a sick mother, and her infant of a fortnight old, were moved in a chair across a ladder reaching from the window of an imperiled house to the top of a fence opposite, by men who stood in a roaring stream, and feared every instant that they were too late. The late Mrs. N. G. B. Dexter, whose parents lived in a house standing where the Miller block now is, was accustomed to relate in her old age, that tall Col. Stephen Jenks took both her and her younger sister in his arms and bore them away to a secure place. Another incident of a dramatic character happened.

Mr. John Pitcher occupied a house that stood on a rock which forms a part of the foundation of Almy's block. He and his daughter and little grandson lingered in the house till the evening of Sunday. But the billows were so threatening, the masses of ice were crashing so furiously, that the daughter dared not spend another night in so lonely a place, especially as connection was cut off with the western shore. She therefore besought her father to leave, and go with her, while the bridge yet stood, to the other side. While he hesitated and refused, she took her infant in her arms,

waded through the water, and crossed the bridge. The crazy structure trembled beneath her steps ; so, after bearing her boy to a place of safety, she took a lantern, and returned for her father, to implore him to leave. She had scarce stepped on the bridge, when she discerned through the blinding spray a lantern. She knew that no one but her father could have gained a footing on the bridge, and eagerly hastened to him. She found him bewildered by the mist and roar, and hurried him across the trembling structure ; and they had hardly stepped a dozen steps on the shore, before the mad billows hurled masses of ice against the tottering fabric, and swept it, a heap of ruins, into the abyss. That aged father and devoted daughter long since passed away, but that infant still survives,—Mr. Franklin Rand,—a man of three-score years and ten.

Through the mercy of God no lives were lost, but fourteen buildings were swept away. None of them were costly edifices, and yet several of them were the seat of locally important industries, that were not merely gainful to their proprietors, but of great convenience to the public around. No such flood has since occurred ; perhaps none has approximated it more nearly than one that happened last spring. But the buildings which have been reared since the earlier freshet have been built so much more firmly, that but little loss was actually sustained, though some shops were in peril. The stately stone bridge which now spans the Blackstone near the falls, is so much stronger than the crazy wooden structure that nearly perished in that former freshet, that beholders feared not to stand on it, and gaze at the careering surges that plunged over the rocks.

It may not be improper to remark, in illustration of the variety of industry that characterized Pawtucket, that an ingenious clock-maker, early in the present century, by the name of John Field, introduced here the casting of brass. He carried on his business in the anchor shop of the elder Mr. Wilkinson. And both the Wilkinsons, and the various

spinners of cotton, were extending their operations. On the eastern side of the river, to the south of Main street, between the bridge and the spacious mill recently erected by the Messrs. Goff, are the sites of old mills. An early manufacturing company took the name of the Cotton and Oil Company. They bought and carried on the oil mill which had been owned by Hugh Kennedy. The company was composed of Nathaniel Croade, Major Ebenezer Tyler, Oliver Starkweather, Benjamin Walcott, Eliphalet Slack, Dr. Billings, and others, and built the so-called Yellow mill in 1805, and the Stone mill in 1813. The company subsequently divided into two sections, and each of them took control of a mill.

The freshet spoken of above carried away all the buildings in the forge lot, from the bridge to what is now called Jenks avenue. The grist mill on the grist mill lot was also swept before the billows, but the grist mill house, which stood on the summit of the rock, remained. Although none of the buildings were very large, they were yet of such service to the whole neighborhood, by reason of the kinds of business carried on in them, that steps were taken to rebuild some of them without any delay. Eleazer Jenks and his sons, Eleazer, Jr., and Stephen, built the forge shop; Pardon and Jabez Jenks built the carding room; and Moses Jenks, the father of the two last named, reared, in connection with others, the grist mill, which stood till pulled down to build the flouring mill in 1863. The basement of the carding machine building was used for a fulling mill, and a snuff mill. The first floor was used for carding wool. The clothier's shop was on the corner of Main street and Jenks avenue; and the basement of the building was used for a coloring shop. The first floor was employed for dressing cloth. The entire business was carried on by Pardon and Jabez Jenks, the latter of whom lived in the tenement above the dressing room. This continued the case till 1817, when Jabez Jenks died. Subsequently the business was carried on by others till 1821, when the shop was resigned to trade.

And here it may be remarked that, though these details seem somewhat prolix, they are instructive for the present generation, by reminding them of the change which has taken place in manufacturing, within seventy years. It was nearly a dozen years after the freshet before power looms came into vogue. Before that time the farmers in this State and the neighboring part of Massachusetts, raised their sheep, clipped their own wool, and had their cloth manufactured beneath their own roof. But before their wives, daughters, or domestics spun and wove their wool, it was brought to Pawtucket to be carded, and, after it was woven, was returned to the clothier's to be dressed and finished. The cloth thus made was very strong, and could be made very fine. Indeed, it is mentioned that when President Monroe was inaugurated in 1817, he wore a suit of clothes made of cloth manufactured in Pawtucket. But this means simply that the wool was carded here, and the cloth finished; for no looms for weaving woolen goods by power had then been put in operation. The tenter bars of the clothiers were, at the early date named, on the lot whereon the stately edifice just reared by the Dexter Brothers now stands.

The basement of the forge shop was used for a trip-hammer shop to do heavy forging, and to make mule spindles. This business was carried on by Eleazer Jenks, Jr., and others of the family, till his death in 1816. The first floor was used for various purposes; quite early by Stephen Jenks, who had a machine for cutting large spikes, of his own device. Subsequently he used it for another purpose, to be mentioned further on. On the second floor, Otis and Benjamin Walcott had a machine shop prior to 1813.

And here may appropriately be quoted an extract of a letter from John K. Pitman to Thomas Cole, Esq., under date of November 8th, 1809, in relation to the cotton manufacturing establishments in the neighborhood of Providence. It shows the comparative awkwardness of some departments of manufacturing at that time. The extract is borrowed from the Providence Journal of June 19th of the present year;

"There are in this State sixteen cotton mills in operation, and seven more erected which have not yet begun to spin. Also without the State and within about thirty miles of this town, there are ten at work, and six not yet in operation. . . . The mills within the State contain between thirteen and fourteen thousand spindles, and consume about twelve thousand pounds of cotton weekly; those without the State contain upwards of six thousand spindles, and consume about five thousand pounds of cotton weekly. The produce of yarn is estimated at four-fifths of the raw material. The mills within the State employ upwards of one thousand looms, most of which are in private families, and wrought by females unoccupied by their domestic concerns. The cotton is picked by private families in the neighborhood of the mills, and in this State this branch gives employment to more than four hundred families a considerable portion of the year, to whom is paid upwards of twenty thousand dollars annually."

The war with Great Britain, which began in 1812, while it nearly swept American commerce from the ocean, gave an impetus to cotton manufacturing and kindred branches of industry in this neighborhood. Indeed, the embargo during Jefferson's administration had doubtless suggested to the shrewd men who had started cotton mills in this neighborhood, that the yarns of their manufacture were likely to be needed to supply an imperious home demand. Hence in 1810 Oziel Wilkinson built another mill on Mill street, which still stands. It is now known as the Lefavour mill. For several years after it was reared, the lower story was occupied by David Wilkinson for a machine shop, and the upper story for cotton spinning. The war, however, stimulated manufacturing still more. On passing up Broadway one sees on the mill occupied by the Dexter Brothers the figures 1813, which indicate the time of the erection of that structure. It was reared originally by Wilkinson & Greene. It has been mentioned that to the south of the bridge a mill was also erected in the same year. About this time, also, Kent's factory was converted into a cot-

ton mill. In 1813, too, a machine shop was built by Eleazer Jenks and family, which extended along the southern part of Main street, and to the east of the clothier's shop that stood on the corner of the present Jenks avenue. This shop, indeed, reached from Main street to the forge shop, and was occupied by David Wilkinson from the period of its erection till 1829. Subsequently, during the war, the Buffington mill, so called at a later date, was erected, and occupied the space between the machine shop and the bridge. Its owners were Pardon and Jabez Jenks. The first person to occupy it was Major Ebenezer Tyler, who was for years one of the most active men of the place. For a part of two seasons he carried on the business of spinning cotton yarns. After him a Mr. Taft occupied it, and was succeeded, not far from 1821, by Mr. Buffington. The business of weaving cloth by power looms, as will be shown, had meanwhile been begun, and Mr. Buffington commenced the manufacture of cloth. He continued to run the mill till it was burnt in 1844.

During the war, of course, invention was stimulated, and two men, in whose name Pawtucket has an interest, were busied in devising valuable contrivances. The slowness of weaving cotton by hand had pressed the inquiry on hundreds of minds, Cannot a power loom be devised, which shall expedite the work, and lessen the expense? And among those who were haunted by this question was an ingenious mechanic in Pawtucket, by the name of John Thorp. As early as 1814 he invented a power loom. It stood upright, and performed its work by perpendicular action. Though it was soon superseded by a more skillful instrument, it yet showed the inventor's ability. Soon after he invented a machine for winding quills or bobbins. He also invented a very ingenious braiding machine, and followed it by the ring spinning or spinning-ring which is now in general use.

The other person referred to was Mr. Asa Arnold, a native of Pawtucket. He devised a machine for separating wool in carding, into slivers, so as to be spun from the cards. This

is believed to have been done during the war named. Subsequently he displayed his ingenuity by introducing compound motion or differential box into the Double Speeder. For this he obtained a patent in 1821. In the judgment of competent parties, both of these inventions possess great merit.

The order of time requires, however, that more be now said of the third grand invention pertaining to the manufacture of cotton. So far as our own land is concerned, this, like the adoption of Arkwright's patent, was rather a reproduction than an invention. Mr. William Gilmore had been working at Slatersville, and sought to introduce there the Scotch loom. No favor was shown to the proposition, however, but Judge Lyman, of the neighboring town of North Providence, hears of the matter, and induces Mr. Gilmore to make the experiment in his mill. From some defect or derangement of the loom, however, it does not work at first; but Judge Lyman thinks of David Wilkinson, and gets him to look at the machine. Mr. Wilkinson's keen eye soon discovers the difficulty, and his fertile mind devises a remedy. And it is an interesting fact, that Capt. James S. Brown, whose inventive genius and business talent have so helped the prosperity of Pawtucket, had just come to work in the shop of Mr. Wilkinson; and the first task he performed was to finish some patterns of the Scotch loom. This was in 1817, and marks an era in the business of manufacturing cotton in our land. Far and wide the news spreads that a power loom is successfully working in the neighborhood of Pawtucket, and manufacturers come to inspect it. The foundation of many a manufacturing village and city, indeed, almost dates from that epoch.

And the period reached requires that another person be now mentioned. In 1813 Mr. Larned Pitcher began as a machinist. Subsequently Mr. P. Hovey and Mr. Arnold became associated with him. Their first place of business was at the new mill on the west side of the river, but they subsequently moved to the Stone mill, and then to the Yellow

mill. In 1819 Mr. Gay became a partner, and, the others named having retired, the style of the firm became *Pitcher & Gay*. Soon Mr. Gay devised a Dresser, which still remains in use. He also invented a Speeder. In September, 1824, Mr. Gay removed to Nashua; and, as Mr. Brown, who had been working for some years in the employment of the parties named, had become a partner on the previous month, the new firm took the well-known style of Pitcher & Brown, and continued in business till 1842.

It was mentioned, in speaking of the forge shop, that Mr. Stephen Jenks occupied for a time the first floor of that building. One circumstance deserves to be named in connection with that shop. The extract quoted from the letter of Mr. Pitman tells in how rude a way the business of picking cotton was carried on. Mr. Jenks introduced here a cotton-picker, which was the first started in this neighborhood. After that, cotton instead of being sent out to private families to be whipped, was brought to the forge shop from all the mills for miles around, and returned in bags to the various mills in condition to be used. Mr. Jenks continued this business till 1817 or 1818, when pickers came into general use in the various mills. The room occupied by Stephen Jenks was afterwards occupied by Abner Tompkins as a machine shop for finishing the iron work for looms, till about 1829.

Prior to the war with Great Britain, as was intimated above, the business of cotton spinning was restricted to a narrow sphere in our land. Massachusetts was largely engaged in commerce, and had taken but little interest in the business wherein Rhode Island was reaping such a harvest. As showing to how small an extent Massachusetts had entered into rivalry with her diminutive neighbor, it may be mentioned that Rehoboth, in 1813, surpassed any other town in that State in the number of its cotton mills. Of course, the larger part of them were in what is now the eastern district of Pawtucket. But the war, by prostrating commerce, caused a diversion of capital, and gave a great stimulus to

manufactures. And the introduction of the Scotch loom confirmed the tendency.

The same copy of the Providence Journal that contains the letter from Mr. Pitman, already quoted, contains extracts from the letter of another manufacturer, who speaks in the following strain. His letter was written in 1820 :

"It will be observed that the foregoing estimate was made in the year 1809, when it may be considered the cotton manufacture was in its infancy. Since that period to the commencement of the year 1816, the increase exceeded all calculation. . . . Allured by the previous enormous profits, hundreds had rushed into the business, in many cases without capital sufficient successfully to conduct such an enterprise, and a general embarrassment resulted, [in 1815 and 1816.] The distress experienced at this time did not last long, however. Those establishments which had been managed prudently continued to operate a portion of their machinery, and the others gradually commenced operations again, until, in a short time, nearly all the machinery was at work.

"The improvements in machinery have been such as to reduce the cost of *labor* to more than one-fourth of what it was in the year 1809; the weaving, which is a very important branch, is reduced to one-half, and the picking of cotton, which it will be observed by Mr. Pitman's estimate, was at that time very expensive, I may say is almost without labor, it being picked by a machine called the picker, which is built at a trifling expense, and is in no way injurious to the staple of the cotton."

For the sake of brevity a part of this letter has been omitted. The writer states, however, that owing to the great depression in business, after the close of the war, occasioned in part by an immense influx of British manufactures, relief was sought by legislation. A list was therefore carefully prepared of the manufacturing establishments, and their number of spindles, and forwarded to Congress. The writer subjoins a list of the cotton factories within thirty miles of Providence, in 1820. The number of spindles credited to that part of North Providence now included in Pawtucket was about twenty-five hundred ; to that part of Seekonk now

embraced in Pawtucket was fifty-four hundred ; in all, in round numbers, seventy-nine hundred spindles. The entire number of mills in the State of Rhode Island was one hundred ; the number of spindles, almost seventy-six thousand. At the present time there is a single corporation in Pawtucket which has a hundred thousand spindles.

During the half century and upward since the letter just quoted from was written, the business of cotton manufacturing has been wonderfully extended by reason of the economy secured through the various inventions named ; but it may well be remembered that when Lowell, Lawrence, Manchester, and Lewiston, which have outstripped this town in population, had no existence, Pawtucket was conducting to success the experiments by which they were to become great and rich.

A few years rolled on, unmarked by any startling occurrences in Pawtucket. In 1824 the old White mill, the second reared in Pawtucket, was burnt down. The energy of its owners, however, speedily secured its rebuilding, and the figures chiseled in its walls tell of both the year when the old mill was consumed, and the new one reared. Pawtucket continued meanwhile to show energy and thrift. A gazetteer of Rhode Island and Connecticut, published at Hartford in 1819, gives a hint as to the appearance of the place at that time :

“The village of Pawtucket is situated in the northeast section of the town, [North Providence,] four miles northeast of Providence, on the border of the Seekonk river ; its site being principally the declivity of a hill, and it is highly romantic and picturesque. The river here affords numerous natural sites for manufacturing establishments, mills and hydraulic works of almost every description, which are scarcely rivalled, and which are occupied to a great extent. The rapid march of manufacturing and mechanical industry, which the short annals of this place disclose, has few examples in our country, and has produced one of the most considerable and flourishing manufacturing villages in the United States. The river here forms the boundary line between

the two States, and the village is built upon both sides of it; being partly in Rhode Island and partly in Massachusetts. That part of it which is in Rhode Island, is principally built on four streets; and comprises eighty-three Dwelling-houses, twelve Mercantile stores, two Churches, a Post Office, an incorporated Bank, an Academy, and two or three flourishing Schools. Of the ten Cotton mills in the town, [North Providence,] three are at this place, and upon an extensive scale. There are six shops engaged in the manufacturing of machinery, having the advantage of water power, and various other mechanical establishments, affording extensive employment, and supporting a dense population. Upon the Massachusetts side of the river, there is a village of nearly equal size and consequence, for its manufacturing and other interests."

A paragraph from a letter of Mr. David Wilkinson also tells of the activity which marked this place during the first three decades of the present century :

" We built machinery to go to almost every part of the country;—to Pomfret and Killingly, Conn.; to Hartford, Vt.; to Wal-
tham, Raynham, Plymouth, Halifax, Plympton, Middleboro', and other places in Massachusetts; for Wall and Wells, Trenton, N. J.; for Union and Gray, on the Patapsco; for the Warren factories, on the Gunpowder, near Baltimore; for Tarboro and Martinburgh, N. C.; to two factories in Georgia; to Louisiana; to Pittsburg; to Delaware; to Virginia, and other places. Indeed, Pawtucket was doing something for almost every part of the country."

But a change occurred in 1829. What community, indeed, enjoys unbroken prosperity? Shrewd political economists affirm that grave commercial revulsions happen at almost regular intervals. About once in twenty years there occurs a general suspension of industry. Enterprise, perhaps, has been too daring, trade too much stimulated, credit unduly strained; and suddenly confidence gives way, and thousands are plunged into bankruptcy. Such was the case in 1817, in 1837, in 1857. So far as such things are providential, may not the reverent soul feel that God is thereby lending emphasis

to the mandate—"Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that which endureth to eternal life!" Industry and enterprise are noble. Since God has ordained that he who will not work shall not eat, happy the man who does his own share of the work of life, and who also by skill and forethought furnishes employment to others! Still, it has been decreed that man shall walk by faith, not always by sight; and crises occasionally come to test human trust. Beside these wide-spread shipwrecks of industry and trade, however, there occur at intervals of about ten years grave local revolutions, when particular communities receive a sudden shock in their industries, and enterprise comes to a halt. Such an experience happened to Pawtucket in 1829. Many of the most active manufacturers had extended their operations beyond the limits of their capital; and, when the strain came, they were compelled to succumb. Property seemed to lose all its value, promising enterprises were abandoned, and the town was suddenly checked in its career. A sagacious merchant of Providence predicted that this town would not recover from the calamity for a score of years; and, though many of the citizens cherished more sanguine hopes, his prophecy was verified. Steam engines were set up in Providence which supplied trip-hammers with power, and the manufacture of anchors and similar things was transferred from Pawtucket never to return. For years the manufacture of cotton seemed almost the sole business, and the fluctuations to which it is incident rendered the town peculiarly sensitive to the caprices of a single branch of industry.

LATER MANUFACTURING.

Such a sketch as the present cannot undertake to trace in detail the course of events. Perhaps it will best fulfill the desire of our legislators, if an attempt be made to show the present condition of industry in this community, in respect to variety and capability. Of course, as the present is a year,

of general depression in business, it would mislead, rather than instruct, to state just how much, or how little, every mill or workshop is now doing; but it will be profitable to show in brief the variety of business carried on in Pawtucket, and the capabilities of the different establishments. And as the year 1830 seems an epoch to date from, it may be well to give a slight sketch of the establishments that outlived the storm of the previous year, and have survived to the present time, and to name those which have been started since. To do this most profitably, it may be advantageous to take one or two of the leading establishments in each branch and refer to their history, and to group under them other representatives of the same class. And where smaller establishments have important specialties, their history may be outlined.

Perhaps it matters little with what branch one starts; the

MACHINE BUSINESS

may therefore first be spoken of.

The traveler, in journeying from Pawtucket to Providence, sees shortly after leaving the station a long and substantial building, reaching almost from the railroad track to Main street. If he make inquiry, he will be told that it is the machine shop of Capt. James S. Brown. Something has already been said about this gentleman. It was mentioned that the firm of Pitcher & Brown, of which he was the junior member, continued in business till 1842. At that time Capt. Brown assumed the entire control, and removed from his former narrow quarters to his present commodious building. As he was resolved to rear a substantial edifice, it was a long time building; and the foundry was earliest in operation. On the last day of the year 1847 he made the first casting in his new furnace. The machine shop is of vast extent, and amply supplied with all the conveniences needed for extensive operations. It is four hundred feet long, and sixty feet wide. It has an engine of fifty-six horse power. There are really two furnaces, one for malleable iron. To man the works fully requires three hundred men.

Capt. Brown has made a great many important inventions, wherein Pawtucket has a right to take pride. In 1831 he invented a machine for cutting bevel gearing; in 1838, a machine for boring tubes of Speeder flyers of solid iron, and obtained a patent therefor. He afterward devised a lathe for turning irregular forms, for which he obtained a patent in 1842. He also invented a fluting machine, for fluting sixteen rolls at a time; and this machine, though not patented, is now in universal use. Capt. Brown invented and patented in 1852 the American Speeder or Rolling frame. In 1874 he invented also a new machine for grinding spindles; in 1875-76 he devised a new machine for drilling rollers for Speeder or spinning machines. The last invention for which he got a patent was for an improvement in Spinning mules. This patent bears date of March 7th, 1876. In addition to these, Capt. Brown has devised a great many contrivances and improvements for facilitating and perfecting the manufacture of cotton machinery. It has seemed, indeed, the aim of his life to secure this end.

It may be worth while, in closing this account of so active a man, to remark that he has machinery now doing good service in his shop, that was made in 1806; and he has three lathes in his establishment for which he has a special fondness, which he himself made in 1820. They were then regarded by lookers-on as very skillfully constructed, and have been demonstrating their reliableness for over half a century.

In 1865 the machinist business of Pawtucket was much enlarged by the removal hither of the firm of Fales, Jenks & Sons. The members of this firm are sons and successors of those who originally composed the firm of Fales & Jenks. In 1830 Mr. David G. Fales and Mr. Alvin Jenks formed a copartnership in Central Falls, and began the manufacture of cotton machinery. In a few years they commenced making Hubbard's Patent Rotary Pump. Adding various improvements to the original design, they so perfected the instrument as to gain almost a monopoly of the manufacture of such

pumps. In 1845 they began to make Ring Spinning Frames, and in 1846 manufactured Ring Twisters, which were among the first of such machines in the country.

In 1856 Mr. Alvin Jenks died, and in a few years Mr. Fales retired from the firm. Meanwhile Mr. John R. Fales, son of the elder Mr. Fales, and Messrs. Alvin F. Jenks and Stephen A. Jenks, were admitted to the partnership, and constitute the present firm. The two latter gentlemen are lineal descendants of the founder of Pawtucket, and show the tenacity with which the family have clung to the iron business.

As mentioned above, the company removed their establishment to Pawtucket in 1865. Buying several acres of land, they reared extensive machine shops, a large foundry, and have added other edifices; and continue the manufacture of the articles already named. And within a few years they have greatly enlarged their business by the manufacture of Houston's Turbine Water Wheel, Mayor's Combined Fly Frame and Speeder; and the Revolving Piston Water Meter. In addition to these articles they make to a large extent Rabbeth's Patent Self-Oiling Spindle. This Spindle may be claimed, indeed, as a Pawtucket invention; for Mr. Rabbeth is residing here. And large orders from Scotland have been often received for it. This establishment is on Dexter street.

Down Jenks avenue stands the machine shop of N. S. Collyer & Co. They occupy the lower story of Payne & Taylor's mill, just over Sargent's Trench.

The senior partner began business in connection with Mr. William H. Haskell about thirty years ago. After ten years Mr. Haskell retired, and was succeeded by Mr. Robert Alexander. In four or five years Mr. Alexander withdrew, and Mr. S. S. Collyer entered into business with his uncle under the present style.

They do a general jobbing business. It is common with them to take drawings, models, &c., and construct machines from them. They add to this general repairing, and employ

ordinarily about thirty workmen. Their business amounts to from fifty to sixty thousand dollars per year.

In the old Lefavour mill, just off from Mill street, is another machine shop. Its proprietors are styled the Bosworth Machine Company. The originator of the company, Mr. L. P. Bosworth, came to Pawtucket in 1858, and began to make jewelers' tools, presses, and like articles. Various parties were associated with him in business, but a few years ago Mr. Bosworth formed the present company. The shop is well supplied with lathes, presses, planers, and other conveniences for making all kinds of jewelers' tools and machines. Within a few years the company have begun to make leather machinery, particularly such as is used in the manufacture of belting. They propose to give particular attention to model making, and the manufacture of new machinery. In jobbing and repairing they also claim proficiency. Running by water power, they have conveniences for employing twenty men.

Collins & Son, on Mill street, also carry on a machine shop. The special articles that they manufacture are cotton and woolen twisters, and cotton spinning frames.

Their works are run by steam power, and are extensive enough to employ from sixty to ninety workmen. The parties began business in 1865, and have continued to increase their facilities for making the goods to which they give attention.

FORGE AND NUT BUSINESS.

The pedestrian, in walking up Main street, sees just before reaching Capt. Brown's machine shop, another somewhat extensive brick building. On reading the sign, he sees the name W. H. Haskell & Co., and ascertains that their business is the making of bolts and nuts. As they are successors on a larger scale of establishments that started from smaller beginnings, it may not be unprofitable to sketch the early history of the business.

Messrs. Jeremiah O. and Joseph Arnold, in 1834 or 1835, started the first press for making iron nuts. It was set up on the Moshassuck river, near where now stands the extensive bleachery of Messrs. Sayles. After a little time they dissolved, and a new firm was formed, consisting of Jeremiah O. Arnold and a Mr. Field, who transferred their business to Pawtucket. These gentlemen added to their business the making of bolts. Stephen Jenks soon entered the same business, and worked at the old forge shop, whose site is now covered by the mill of the Pawtucket Manufacturing Company. In due time, Mr. William Field started the tool-making business, manufacturing, among other things, augers on a novel plan. About the year 1840, however, he removed to Providence, and became the founder of the well-known Tool Company in that city.

Beside these parties, Mr. Franklin Rand entered the field. He first occupied the old grist mill house, which, perched on the rocks, outrode the freshet of 1807. He set up a press there for punching iron, in 1843. On the next year he took as a partner Mr. Joseph Arnold, and they remained together till 1847. From that time Mr. Rand was alone till 1863. He introduced an innovation in his business. Before his experiment it was thought that the maximum was reached, when nuts were punched from cold iron one and one-half inches broad by three-fourths of an inch thick; but he soon punched nuts two and one-half inches broad by an inch thick. Mr. Rand built the largest press for this purpose that then existed in the country. He was ridiculed in advance for his undertaking; for his wheel was deemed too small for the object. But he taxed its full power, and showed that, as the business originated in this neighborhood, it was capable of great perfection here.

After the death of Col. Stephen Jenks the business he had established was carried on by his son Joseph and by Mr. Joseph T. Sisson. About the year 1855, Pinkham, Haskell & Co. succeeded. W. H. Haskell bought the establishment

in 1857, and carried it on till 1860. Meanwhile he added to his business the manufacture of coach-screws. Deserting the old edifice, he reared in 1860 the building now occupied, and began work in it on January 1st, 1861. At that time the new style was assumed, from the admission of a partner. The establishment is capable of converting from 600 to 800 tons of iron annually into nuts, bolts, and screws.

And here, perhaps, may fitly come in the reminiscences of an aged man, who was born in Smithfield four score years ago :

“I was acquainted with some of the older residents in Pawtucket seventy years ago. I saw the great freshet which carried off the bridge and Pardon Jenks’s old buildings. Mr. Jenks said, ‘I have lost all my property; I am a poor man.’ He was asked how much he would take for his rocks, where the buildings stood. ‘I will take forty thousand dollars,’ was the answer. I came to Pawtucket when I was twenty years old, and worked for David Wilkinson. In 1817 I helped make a machine for making Scotch plaid. In 1818 I helped build a steam engine for Dr. Wardsworth to run a steamboat in Providence. In 1819 I built the first bed-tick loom. I saw the first loom run by water power. It was made to stand upright. [This was probably Thorp’s loom.] In 1824 I helped build a hydraulic press. In 1845 I made the first dies for twisting augers under trip-hammers. In 1846 I took charge of the shop called the Providence Tool Company. They run seven presses for making nuts and washers. (The first press I built for this kind of work was in 1833.) I started ten presses for the Providence Forge and Nut Company,—one a very large press. I punched nuts four inches in diameter, two inches thick, from cold iron.

JERE. O. ARNOLD.”

This account has value, not merely as containing a record of the personal experience of an octogenarian, but as showing the variety of work performed in the machine shops of Pawtucket half a century ago.

FOUNDRY BUSINESS.

It has already been mentioned that both Oziel Wilkinson and his son David established furnaces in the old coal yard,

The father died in 1815, but the son remained in Pawtucket till the ruinous revulsion in 1829. In 1832, however, Mr. Zebulon White removed hither, and began the business of casting iron in one of those abandoned furnaces. For a time a Mr. Brown was associated with him, and the firm bore the designation of White & Brown. Subsequently Mr. White, in connection with Mr. Clark Sayles and ex-Gov. Earl, carried on the business under the style of the Pawtucket Cupola Furnace Company, and continued from 1835 to 1847. At that time Mr. White sold out to his partners, and bought the lot now occupied by his sons and successors on Dexter street.

After erecting a furnace, he continued to carry on the business till his death in 1859. On his decease his sons, Zebulon P. and Joshua S. White, succeeded to the business. In 1872, to increase their facilities, they added a machine shop, and associated with them Mr. Fred. H. White as a partner.

The Messrs. White obtained a multitude of patterns from former establishments, which they have preserved; and among them are patterns for machinery devised by David Wilkinson; so that parties who fail to find old models elsewhere find them here. As illustrating the growth of business in Pawtucket, it may be stated that thirty-five years ago about a ton and a half of iron was melted per week; while in times of ordinary activity now, there are melted in Pawtucket and the adjoining village of Central Falls fifteen tons daily. About twenty men can find employment in the foundry of Messrs. White.

Rhode Island Stove Works. The buildings of this company are erected on Broad street, close by the railroad track. Their business was originally started by a private firm, composed of Messrs. William H. Hathaway, Thomas Robinson, Edwin Jenks, and Benjamin Smith Donald, under the style of the Pawtucket Furnace Company. This was in 1853. Subsequently the other parties withdrew, and Mr. Hathaway carried on the business alone. After a while he sold out to H. & S. Fifield. In 1867 Mr. H. Fifield withdrew, and Mr.

S. Fifield took in two persons as partners, and carried on the business under the name of S. Fifield & Co. In 1869 a stock company was formed, which took the present title and succeeded to the business.

How extensive is the establishment? In average times forty workmen are employed. The articles made are stoves, sinks, and hollow ware, and the furnaces enable the company to melt over five hundred tons of iron per year. The nominal capital is \$40,000.

THE LEATHER BUSINESS.

The manufacture of leather in Pawtucket is mainly subsidiary to the making of belting, lace-leather, and similar goods. And this business has been largely developed in Pawtucket. Mr. David Wilkinson mentions in his reminiscences that "Mr. Slater ran his first machinery by rope bands, for his carding machines, roping and drawing, as the use of belts was not then known in this country. The first leather belts I ever heard of," he continues, "were made by John Blackburn, when he was setting a mule in operation for Mr. Slater."

Lewis Fairbrother, Esq., was the pioneer in the manufacture of picker-string and lace leather here. He came to Pawtucket in 1834. At that time he knew of but one person that was carrying on the business in the land, and he on a very small scale. So light was the demand for his product, that he began with a few tubs in the preparation of his leather. But Mr. Fairbrother had more audacity. He dared risk the sinking of a vat or two. For over a dozen years Mr. Fairbrother had the field to himself, and expanded his business from the growing demand. In 1847 Mr. James Davis began to make lace leather, and in 1850 both he and Mr. Fairbrother commenced the manufacture of belting. During the last quarter of a century other parties have entered into the business; and beside the successors of the gentlemen named, Mr. George S. Fales, Messrs. Bacon Bros. & Co., and Mr. Frank

R. Almy, own extensive establishments. (Mr. Fairbrother has been succeeded by his sons, H. L. Fairbrother & Co., and Mr. Davis by James Davis & Son.) The aggregate sales of these five establishments during the past year, although it was a year of business depression, could not have been much less than nine hundred thousand dollars.

And this town, in connection with the adjoining village of Central Falls, constitutes the seat of the largest manufacture of belting in the United States. Most of the lace leather used in the country,—a large quantity,—is also made here.

But beside this branch of the manufacture of leather, the business of Mr. Dennis Martin should be mentioned. He makes harness and belt leather, and all kinds of shoe leather. He is the successor of parties that had been carrying on the business for about half a century. Day & Mitchell constituted a firm prior to 1830, and Daniel Mitchell carried on the establishment after dissolving with Mr. Day. Mr. Martin succeeded about 1853.

The tanning for Mr. Martin's manufactory is not performed in Pawtucket. Bark is obtained so much more easily in other places, that his tanning is done in different towns in Maine or other States. Mr. Martin curries and finishes here about 40,000 sheep skins per year. He also prepares over 5000 calf roller skins. Of harness and upper leather he makes 5000 sides, wholly tanned by bark. He sells, too, from a thousand to fifteen hundred sides of sole leather. He also manufactures belt leather and speeder leather to considerable extent. All his goods, indeed, are tanned by bark, and are widely scattered, some even being shipped to Mexico.

The business is quite exceptional, and it is probable that not half a dozen establishments of like character exist in the country. Mr. Martin's shop is on Pleasant street.

SPOOL COTTON MANUFACTURERS.

The stranger visiting Pawtucket, in passing up Mill street, by horse-car, reaches at length the end of the rails at the

intersection of Cross street. Turning to the east to cross the iron bridge which spans the Blackstone, he has on his left the commodious mill of the Pawtucket Hair Cloth Company. Looking across the bridge he sees on the opposite side of the river, in the town of Pawtucket, the long and graceful mill of Messrs. Greene & Daniels. On one of the projecting towers he sees a clock, which tells how swift time is passing, and at intervals the clear bell strikes the hours.

That mill stretches parallel with the Blackstone for the distance of four hundred and seven feet, and is sixty-seven feet in breadth, and five stories high. Annexed to the mill is an engine room, boiler house, and cotton room 42 by 90 feet, two stories in height. Beside these buildings there are a mechanical shop 100 by 32, three stories in height, and bleachery and dye-works, and other buildings on the premises.

The senior partner of this firm came to the adjoining village of Central Falls in 1824, and for twenty years as workman and partner remained there. In 1844 he removed to Mapleville, and after six years went to Richmond, R. I. In two years from that date Gen. Daniels became associated with him, and the firm took its present style. In 1855 they removed to Central Falls, and occupied Moies & Jenks's mill, and have continued to run it till the present year. They also run the mill of Andrew Jencks in that village for five years. In 1860 they commenced the erection of their present mill, and enlarged it to its present dimensions in 1866.

The special business of this firm is the manufacture of spool cotton, and their product on some years has been 1,800,000 dozen. In connection with spool cotton they make yarns for various manufacturing purposes.

As illustrating the growth of their business, it may be stated that in 1852 they run only two thousand spindles; at present they are running twenty-two thousand. The cotton used by them in 1875 amounted to 1,098,755 pounds, costing \$180,286.75. Their product for the same year was 883,000 pounds of manufactured yarn. At present the num-

ber of operatives employed is three hundred and fifty; but at times over four hundred have been employed.

Turning one's back, however, on the spacious mill of the firm named, the visitor may journey west through Cross street, in the village of Central Falls, till he reaches Dexter street. And for the last quarter of a mile he sees before him a huge mill, flanked by two stately towers. On inquiry he learns that the vast edifice is but one of three mills reared by the Conant Thread Company. The other two are in the neighborhood, and stand to the south of the mill just spoken of, and, like that, are massively built. This company started in 1869 to manufacture the celebrated six cord thread of J. & P. Coats. Their first mill was erected in that year. The company are in possession of twenty-five acres of land, and, in addition to the mills, have built a bleachery, spacious storehouses, and like structures. Their capital is two millions of dollars. Their power is supplied by mighty steam engines. And they already have in operation a hundred thousand spindles.

A small brigade of operatives finds employment in the spacious mills, and muster fourteen hundred strong. Every precaution is taken against fire. The men are organized into a fire corps, and exercised at regular intervals. There is a powerful force pump in every mill, which can discharge, if need be, in each mill a thousand gallons per minute. To give the engines an ample supply of pure soft water, pipes are laid to the margin of the Blackstone, and a small engine is stationed by that river which forces the water for nearly a mile to this company's works. The pipe is six inches in diameter; and the water thus obtained, in addition to what is capable of being pumped from a pond nigh at hand, gives reasonable promise that any ordinary fire can be extinguished before it gains much headway.

The Hope Thread Company were incorporated in 1869, with a capital of \$100,000. Their special manufacture is that of three cord spool thread. They also make Hosiery

"Cop" Yarns, and other yarns. The range of yarns spun by them is from five to forty. They use twenty bales of cotton a week, employ seventy-five operatives, and produce eight thousand pounds weekly. They have five thousand spindles, which are run by steam power. Their buildings are on Division street.

COTTON YARN MANUFACTURERS.

The Dexter Brothers are sons of Capt. N. G. B. Dexter. The father resided for the greater part of his life in Pawtucket. Born in Grafton, Mass., he came to this place in September, 1799, and was wont to say that on the very day he came, he crossed the bridge to see the raising of the frame of the second cotton mill reared here. He soon entered the employ of Almy, Brown & Slater, and remained with them for about thirty years. In 1820 he began to make knitting cotton on a small scale on his own account; and in 1830 left the service of the above named firm, and entered more largely into the business. By strict carefulness and fidelity he gained for his cotton such a reputation that it is the standard article in the market. A few years before his death two of his sons became associated with him in business, and took the present style, Dexter & Brother. His death occurred in April, 1866, but his successors strive to maintain the quality and reputation of the knitting cottons.

They occupy a mill on the eastern side of the river, which was built by Wilkinson, Greene & Co., in 1813. Since coming into their possession it has been greatly enlarged, and now contains twelve thousand spindles. Their counting room and packing shop remain where they have long been, on East avenue.

COTTON MANUFACTURERS.

Littlefield Brothers are engaged in the manufacture of yarns for consumers. They have been in business for nearly a quarter of a century. They began, indeed, as partners of

David Ryder, Esq., in 1852. The firm bore the style of David Ryder & Co. In 1857 Mr. Ryder retired. Their chief mill in Pawtucket is in the rear of Manchester block, but this manufactures but a small part of what they dispose of. The mill spoken of contains 3400 spindles, but other mills carried on in other towns by them swell the product to such an extent that their weekly sales amount to 20,000 pounds. They are agents of the Cumberland Mills. All the goods named are sold here. The classes of goods they manufacture may be described as skein (or pound) sewing cottons; first quality cop yarns for hosiery; three cord threads for spooling in all numbers; seaming cottons; harness and printers' twines. Their rooms are in their new block on Mill street.

R. B. Gage & Co. Mr. Gage, the senior member of this firm, has been a practical manufacturer for over thirty years. In 1845 he began to make hosiery yarn in Attleboro. Thence he removed to Central Falls, and finally to Pawtucket. He has occupied various places in this town, and spent some years in the outskirts,—at Ingrahamville and Lebanon Mills. In 1868, however, he reared the spacious mill which the firm now occupy on Fountain street. For some years Mr. James O. Starkweather has been associated with him.

The special business of this firm is the manufacture of hosiery yarns and stockinet. They run 4500 spindles, and ten knitting looms.

Lebanon Mill Company. The Lebanon mill is near the site of an older mill, which is mentioned in the act incorporating the town of Pawtucket, in 1828. The earlier mill is styled in that act Kent's factory, and is described as being on an island. It was reared probably soon after the beginning of the present century by Deacon Remember Kent. Originally it was a saw and grist mill, but during the second war with Great Britain was converted into a cotton mill. Deacon Kent's sons,—Willington, Remember, and Seba, succeeded him in the business, and made yarns which were peddled in the country, specially for carpet yarns.

Subsequently other parties carried on the mill,—Rufus J. Stafford, Nathaniel G. Pierce, Thayer & Moies. At a later period the mill was burnt, and a new mill erected on the main land in 1859–60. R. B. Gage & Co. occupied the new edifice, and were succeeded by Alanson Thayer & Son. On the death of Mr. A. Thayer in 1869 his son Edward succeeded, and adopted the present style. The company manufacture all kinds of thread and hosiery yarns, on the cop, skein, or beam. They have 6300 spindles.

Pratt & Spencer. These gentlemen are the proprietors of the Old Slater Mill. They started business in the old stone mill, east side, in December, 1864. They removed to their present quarters in 1865, though they let a part of the old mill. They are specially engaged in making and selling yarns, twines, and threads. Their number of spindles is 1452, but they sell far more than the product of these. They employ twenty-five operatives.

They have lately invented a tunnel or paper-cop, for putting on machine thread, and have obtained a patent for it. The visitor to their office can see in the entry the veritable lock which was put on the old mill, when it was young. The lock is a huge affair, and challenges admiration.

COTTON GOODS.

On Main street, nearly opposite Capt. Brown's shop, stand the buildings of the Slater Cotton Company. The larger edifice was reared in 1863 for a file manufactory. In 1868, however, it was bought by the Slater Cotton Company, and materially enlarged. This company was incorporated in 1869, with a capital of \$400,000. The mill contains 20,000 spindles, and four hundred and fifty-five looms.

The goods made are a fine shirting, of the finest style manufactured in our country. The number of operatives is three hundred and twenty-five.

In one story of the old stone mill, just north of the mill of Messrs. Goff, are the rooms of Mr. Charles C. Holland. Those

rooms were occupied years ago by Mr. John H. Potter, and subsequently by S. & W. Foster. Mr. Holland runs 2600 spindles, employs twenty-five operatives, and manufactures from three to four thousand pounds of yarn per week. The goods he makes are described as ranging from No. 10 to 40, 1, 2, 3, or more ply; and threads are advertised in cop or skein.

In other rooms of the same mill Messrs. Thurber, Horton & Wood manufacture light sheetings. These gentlemen carry on business also at Central Falls, but run in Pawtucket 2400 spindles, and have in operation fifty-four looms. They employ about thirty operatives, and occupy about one-fourth of the mill.

To preserve the history of the mill, it may be mentioned that Mr. Edward Walcott occupied these premises before the present parties.

The Bridge Mill Manufacturing Company occupy the mill on the south side of the eastern end of the bridge. The building has been frequently mentioned, and is often spoken of as the Yellow mill. Thayer & Pitcher occupied it in 1837, and for some years made cotton goods of a comparatively thick texture. Subsequently it was tenanted by Barrows & Ingraham. The Bridge Mill Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1867, with a capital of \$100,000. The company manufacture cotton cloth for linings, shirtings, (7-8.) They run 5000 spindles, and have 100 looms. When in full operation they employ sixty-five operatives.

One other company needs here to be mentioned. It has been stated that the Buffington mill was burnt in 1844. A new mill was speedily built, however, which occupied not merely its site, but still more space. Beside being so extended as to reach the abutment of the bridge, it also covered up the site of the old forge and carding mill. This mill was long occupied by the Pawtucket Manufacturing Company. That corporation has suspended its operations, however, and most of the machinery has been removed from the mill. At

present the edifice stands without an occupant, on the southern side of Main street, the last building on the right as one steps on the bridge from the west.

The mill of the Greene Brothers has a history. Originally Timothy Greene's tan and bark mill occupied the site, but soon after the beginning of the present century the bark mill was converted into a cotton mill. For years it was used for that purpose by Samuel & Daniel Greene & Co. The crisis of 1829 prostrated them, however, and the property was bought by the New England Pacific Bank, with a pledge on their part that it should be restored to the Greene family, whenever the liabilities were paid.

The mill receives its supply of water from Sargent's Trench, and the power is 40 or 50 horse. As the burden of liquidation seemed not overpowering, the family gave themselves to the task of lifting it, and succeeded in due time. The manufacture of cotton was quickly resumed. Joseph T. Greene, in 1835, began to carry on the business in his name, and commenced making cotton cord in addition to his other business. But he did not despise the day of small things, for he began this branch of business with twenty dollars' worth of machinery. In 1856 Mr. Greene associated his younger brother in business with him.

Their special business is the manufacture of cotton and shoe laces. To man their rooms demands twenty operatives. The old mill was burnt, but a new edifice was reared in 1861.

UNION WADDING WORKS.

The Union Wadding Company is the offspring of an establishment carried on by Mr. Darius Goff in another town. He began in Rehoboth in 1840. His first undertakings were on a humble scale, and, for four years, he continued to manufacture glazed wadding. In 1844, however, he resolved to extend his business, and erected a much larger mill. Scarce was it completed, when, in his absence in Providence, it took fire and was wholly consumed, at a loss of over six

thousand dollars. To increase the annoyance an insurance, which was to have been effected on the next day, was unsecured, and the entire loss fell on Mr. Goff.

In the course of a couple of years Mr. Goff removed to Pawtucket, and, in 1847, bought the premises which the company now occupy, of Mr. James Weeden and Capt. Dexter. He began to build a mill, and, in the course of the following year, completed one of stone. It was 200 feet in length by 40 in breadth, and was two stories high. To show him that his experience was not to be wholly thornless, a second-hand steam engine which he had bought had to be paid for twice, and then in about a year, a third claimant appeared who had a prior mortgage. As he had had a new engine constructed meanwhile, he concluded not to buy the old one again, but abandoned it to the claimant, and resolved to let his experience teach him thenceforth to buy new machinery. The new engine is put in, however, and the works are in running order, and promise to make the owner forgetful of previous annoyances, when suddenly the mill takes fire, and the interior is burnt out. And to add to the trial, but a small insurance had been effected.

But in due time the mill was reconstructed, and suffered from two or three smaller fires. Subsequently it was leased to Mr. Henry Turner, of Cranston, R. I., and a few gentlemen in Pawtucket, on a lease of five years; but, before the period had expired, Mr. Turner died, and his associates desired to give up the property, as none of their number had any practical acquaintance with the business. Mr. Goff assented, and, being thus compelled to retain an interest in the manufacture of wadding, engaged Mr. Henry A. Stearns to participate in the business.

It was in 1860 that the new firm was formed, and consisted of the following members: Darius Goff, John D. Cranston, Stephen Brownell and Henry A. Stearns. Mr. Stearns had had practical experience, and forthwith assumed the charge. At that time, in the small stone mill named, the product was

about 1200 pounds only per day. But the business increased, and constrained the proprietors to lengthen the old mill, to rear new buildings, and to enlarge the capabilities of the establishment. Experience suggested improved modes of manufacture also, and the product from year to year increased.

In 1870 the company became an incorporated company, but retained the designation of the Union Wadding Company. They have year by year multiplied their buildings, and extended their operations, till now their works surpass in largeness any establishment of the kind in our land. And this assertion means a good deal; for wadding is used far more widely in the United States than in any other country. To excel here, therefore, is to excel everywhere. And the proprietors know of no rival establishment of half the capacity of theirs.

The land owned by this company is between three and four acres in extent, and is largely covered by buildings. There are between two and three acres of flooring. The company have added to the original business the manufacture of machinery waste and batting. They can now turn out daily 250 bales (15,000 pounds) of wadding and batting; and, if to this the machinery waste be added, the product can be made still more. A single item suggests a comparison between a few years ago and now. In 1860 a steam engine of 40 horse power answered all the demand made upon it; to-day one of 300 horse power is taxed. To secure the greater economy, numerous labor-saving contrivances have been devised; but still a hundred workmen are needed, and novel appliances make their toils more effective.

The business was formerly deemed extremely hazardous, and, as the foregoing account shows, fires were both frequent and disastrous. But during the last fifteen years expedients have been successfully sought to lessen the danger of conflagration. The buildings now used are substantially constructed of brick, and are rendered nearly fire-proof. Steam furnishes the heat needed for drying; skillful modes of separation

hinder a fire that may kindle in one room from communicating to another; and insurance companies will accept risks in this establishment on as favorable terms as they accord to any cotton mill.

DUNNELL PRINT WORKS.

Before undertaking to speak of this establishment, it may be profitable to rescue from oblivion a few facts relative to former occupants of the region. A contemporary says that he was informed years ago by a former owner of the land bordering on the east side of Bucklin's brook, that, being on the premises in 1775, he saw on the west bank of the brook the remains of an old dam; and his father told him that it was erected by Solomon Smith for the manufacture of grave stones. In the tedious work of polishing such stones, he substituted water power for manual labor. Mr. Smith was a thoughtful man. Mindful of human mortality, and thinking that he could do a needed work more economically than could his heirs, he made and polished his own grave stones, and set them up in the ancient cemetery in Seekonk, where they may now be seen. Of course, after his decease, there was only needed the trifling insertion of the date of his death and of his age, to make the work complete.

From some cause that business was abandoned, and the Bucklin heirs subsequently reared another dam, and built a stone building, which was used from 1811 to 1814 or 1815 for the manufacture of cotton yarn. The edifice, however, was burnt out in the latter year. The next business done on this site was by John B. Braid. He bought, in behalf of Almy, Brown & Slater, the water privilege and forty acres of land of Nancy Bucklin. The firm named were doubtless weary of the rude mode of bleaching that has been described as common at the beginning of the century, and made the purchase in question to furnish Mr. Braid with facilities. From 1817 to 1825, therefore, Mr. Braid carried on the bleaching of cotton cloth and yarn at this place. Block

printing, too, was done here in 1824. For a few months in the following year printing was carried on by the Hopefield Company. From 1825 to 1829 the premises were occupied by Shinkwin & Bliss, who carried on bleaching and block printing. In 1830 Royal Sibley hired the place of Jenkins & Almy, and introduced the business of coloring cambric in addition to bleaching. The business was done under the style of Sibley & Kelley, and amounted to \$5000 per week. Subsequently Mr. Sibley gave his main attention for three years to the work of dyeing cambric.

Printing was begun by Mr. Sibley in 1833, and carried on by him under the name of Franklin Print Works till 1835. He used in the outset a machine of two colors.

In 1836 Jacob Dunnell, Thomas J. Dunnell, and Nathaniel W. Brown formed a partnership under the name of the Dunnell Manufacturing Company, and the works have been carried on since that date under that style. During the past forty years extensive additions have been made. Old structures have given place to new ones, larger buildings been reared, and numerous conveniences been supplied. The company began with two machines of 2 and 4 colors, but at this date they have eleven machines, capable of printing 10 colors on a pattern. At the present time the works are able to produce 14,000 pieces of calico per week, and require about three hundred laborers to man them.

About an eighth of a mile below the works named stands the Wheaton dam, which was built by Nehemiah Bucklin in 1789. Here a building was erected, and, as Slater had not yet come to teach the inhabitants of Pawtucket how to spin cotton, the mill was appropriated to another branch of useful manufacturing. For five years Mr. Bucklin made snuff there. The eastern side of the river rivaled the west in that honorable industry, and sneeze doubtless answered to sneeze.

Going down the stream the visitor comes to Ingrahamville, a little village clustering round a mill. Business was started

at this place by Simmons L. Hale, and by the Pawtucket Calico Company in 1826. The design was to carry on the bleaching of cotton goods and the printing of calicoes. After making the experiment for a year, the place was sold to Mr. Dwight Ingraham. While the buildings needed were preparing at Ingrahamville, Mr. Hale occupied the works where the Dunnell Manufacturing Company now have their extensive establishment. And Mr. Samuel Slater, who then owned the property, offered to sell Mr. Hale 60 acres of land, the water privilege, two dwelling houses, and a brick building for bleaching purposes, for \$2500, but the sale seems not to have been made. From some cause Mr. Hale abandoned his undertakings, and Mr. Ingraham began to manufacture print cloths in the mill he had purchased. In the year 1828 he set in operation 1000 spindles and 25 looms. For nearly twenty years afterward the place was occupied by Mr. Hugh Leckie. The present proprietor is Mr. John W. Leckie, and he carries on the business of spinning hosiery yarn. He has 2100 spindles, and makes annually 150,000 pounds. He employs from fifteen to eighteen operatives.

PAWTUCKET HAIR CLOTH COMPANY.

After the reaction took place from the utter prostration of business in 1829, it began to be felt by shrewd manufacturers that Pawtucket needed, to give it steadiness, some other business beside cotton manufacturing. Some were on the alert, therefore, to find out new kinds of business that could be successfully started here. Mr. Freeman Baxter thought that he could weave hair-seating, and David Ryder & Co., and James M. Ryder, united with him to furnish the needed capital. The business associates of Mr. David Ryder were Messrs. George L. and Alfred H. Littlefield. The business was started in 1856 in the Old Slater Mill.

In 1858 Gen. Olney Arnold bought Mr. Baxter's interest, and the latter withdrew. In the same year, Mr. Richard Ryder purchased an interest. But this firm had the usual

experience in starting a novel business. All were inexperienced in it; unexpected difficulties arose, which tried patience and used up funds. Scores of expedients were resorted to, only to baffle hope; and foreign manufacturers added to the burden. Practicing their usual tactics to crush a new enterprise, they reduced prices, so as, if possible, to compel the experimenters to abandon the field.

Most of the partners were occupied with business which demanded their unremitting attention; but Mr. David Ryder abandoned other business, and, giving the enterprise his personal care, resolved to conduct it, if possible, to success. In Europe hair-seating had been made by hand looms; but power looms were in use in this country. The hair was, however, supplied by hand. The problem to be solved, in order to make such looms effective and economical, was, whether an automatic feeder could be devised. Mr. Isaac C. Lindsley had been for a year experimenting on this point in Providence, and was induced in 1861 to come to Pawtucket, and try to perfect his invention. He devised a very ingenious contrivance which secured the end, and for which a patent was obtained. A patent had also been got for a stop motion, but it was disputed; and, to avoid litigation, Mr. Ryder, in behalf of himself and associates, purchased a competing patent of Mr. Rufus J. Stafford.

So many difficulties having been thus surmounted, and more capital being needed to develop the business, a stock company was organized in May, 1861, with a capital of \$100,000. In January, 1863, it was increased to \$300,000, and subsequently to \$500,000. During this period Gen. Arnold had been treasurer of the firm, and was also elected treasurer of the corporation. Mr. Ryder was both president of the corporation and managing agent. But the old quarters were found too narrow, and the company purchased a valuable privilege in Central Falls, and reared on Cross street their present commodious mill in 1864.

In 1863 Mr. Ryder retired from the management, and Mr.

Daniel G. Littlefield became agent. Gen. Arnold has continued to be the treasurer. But from the time when the company removed their machinery to their present quarters, the history of it has belonged to Smithfield and Lincoln. Still, the style of the company continues to tell its parentage.

Messrs. Payne & Taylor reared their present building on East avenue on the site of the old anchor shop occupied by the Wilkinsons. Their own business was engraving for calico printers. In 1855, however, Messrs. John Hall and James Sheldon began business in their building under the title of the Boston Hair Cloth Company. They attempted to make erinoline and stuff for ladies' wear, but, after continuing three years in the business, abandoned it. In 1855 the Walcott Manufacturing Company began in the same mill to make button-hole cutters for tailors. The year 1857 prostrated everything, however, and these two establishments did not long survive.

. In 1858 Messrs. Payne & Taylor themselves began the manufacture of erinoline and like stuff on the machinery left by the Boston company. They had meanwhile carried on their engraving, but in 1860 gave it up. In the same year they disposed of their old looms, and soon obtained of the Pawtucket Hair Cloth Company the right to use their patent automatic action for feeding the hair. And their present looms contain that improvement.

They employ twenty-five operatives, and can manufacture six hundred yards per day.

In the same building with Messrs. Payne & Taylor is the manufactory of Mr. George H. Fuller. The special business to which Mr. Fuller devotes himself is the making of jewelers' findings. The uninitiated know not how many of the articles used in the repair shops of ordinary jewelers are made ready for their hand in other establishments. Chains, rings, pins, buckles, clasps, and hundreds of like articles, are made

in Mr. Fuller's rooms. His business was started in 1861, and he usually employs from fifteen to twenty operatives.

D. GOFF & SON.

The stranger who crosses the stone bridge from the west, must needs have his attention arrested by the new mill of the Messrs. Goff. If he know not the reputation of the firm already, he will find on inquiry that that extensive building is devoted to the manufacture of braids for ladies' dresses.

These gentlemen started business in 1861 in company with Messrs. W. F. and F. C. Sayles, in Haskell's building. A fire drove them from their quarters, and in 1862 or 1863 they removed their establishment to Smithfield. In 1864 the Messrs. Sayles withdrew from the partnership, and the firm took the present style. Returning to Pawtucket, and removing to the stone mill near their present place of business, they continued to make worsted braids. In 1872 they built their present spacious mill. Using, as they do, water power, they have a fall of 16 feet, and estimate their power as 275 horse.

Their machinery is mainly of foreign manufacture. The so-called braiders used are 625 in number. They employ 175 operatives, mostly girls. The mill is five stories high on the river, and four in front. It is 200 feet in length, 55 in breadth, and has a tower 112 feet high. The reader may ask as to the products of such a mill. It consumes 1000 pounds of wool daily, and manufactures 100,000 yards of braid per day.

The firm favor direct sales, and a large map in the office shows by pins the towns and cities where goods are sold. And it is becoming quite tattooed.

DYEING ESTABLISHMENTS.

On the eastern side of the Blackstone, farther down the stream than Greene & Daniels' mill, stand the buildings of Richard Harrison. Mr. Harrison began, in company with Mr. Haley, in the year 1862, the business of dyeing woolen yarns and braids. The firm bore the name of Haley & Harrison,

and did but a small business at first. They commenced, indeed, in the basement of Payne & Taylor's mill, and had scarce work enough to employ two men. In the next year skirt and embroidery work began to be used in the country, and for a season they dyed 3000 pounds per day.

In 1867 Mr. Haley retired, and a new firm was formed of R. Harrison & Co. The old firm had been compelled by the great increase of business in 1863 to seek larger quarters, and therefore built on the site of their present edifices. At that time they employed thirty-five men. In the fall of 1867 they enlarged their works. A year from that time they began to print both woolen and cotton yarns. At that period they printed 600 pounds per day, but their works are now capable of printing 1000 pounds a day. Extending their business, Messrs. Harrison & Co. commenced in the fall of 1869 to manufacture woolen yarns. In 1872 and 1873 they manufactured 1500 pounds per day.

At present Mr. Harrison is carrying on his business without any partner, and has facilities for dyeing 5000 pounds braid and yarns daily, and of printing 1000 pounds.

R. D. Mason & Co. This firm are successors to Samuel Merry & Co. As early as 1805, Barney Merry began the manufacture of gingham in connection with the business of dyeing. After a time he abandoned the former business, and gave his whole attention to the dyeing and bleaching of cotton goods. In 1847 Mr. Merry died, and two of his sons succeeded to the business. In 1866 Robert D. Mason was admitted to the firm. After the death of Mr. Samuel Merry, Mr. Mason became chief, and adopted the present style. For years he had as partners the Dexter Brothers, but of late they have withdrawn.

The establishment of Mason & Co. is quite extensive, and is situated on East avenue. At present fifty men are employed, and the works are able to bleach three and a half tons per day. Cotton yarns and stockinets are the chief goods on which their skill is spent.

R. BLISS MANUFACTURING CO.

In passing up Main street, a short distance above Capt. Brown's machine shop, one sees a brick building bearing the sign of the above-named company. Their business illustrates a fact very often observed in Pawtucket, of a business starting in a very humble way, but growing to great proportions in the lapse of years.

Mr. Rufus Bliss started years ago by picking out choicest pieces of hickory wood, carrying them to a convenient lathe, and then working for a few hours, and converting them into screws. After accumulating a little stock he would set out for Boston in a wagon, and sell them along the way. In this manner he formed an acquaintance with cabinet makers, and pianoforte manufacturers, and learned from their workmen what kinds of screws and like articles were needed by them. Acting on this knowledge he provided such tools as were needed, and enlarged his business. His aim was to make the best screws attainable, and he so far succeeded as to furnish the classes named with the goods they needed.

He worked in that way till 1845, when he sold half his interest. The partnership thus formed took the title of R. Bliss & Co., and sought a wider market. A. N. Bullock was the first partner; and in the course of a few years E. R. Clark and A. C. Bullock became associated, and Mr. Bliss withdrew.

In 1845 half of a room sufficed for the company; in 1853 they hired one story in D. D. Sweet's old building, and occupied it for several years. Compelled to seek larger quarters, however, they built their present shop in 1866. By carefully maintaining the quality and reputation of their goods, they have not only retained their old trade, but added largely to it. They make wooden screws, clamps, tool handles, tool chests, toys, etc. They were among the first in the country, too, to engage in the manufacture of croquet sets. Their business has so grown that, whereas they employed in 1852 but ten workmen, they now, in average times, employ sixty.

They use up annually 500,000 feet of hard wood, and, including logs and box boards, 1,000,000 feet.

In January, 1874, the proprietors organized as a stock company, and took the present name.

D. D. SWEET & CO.

The special business of this firm is the making of doors, sashes, blinds, and builders' materials generally. The present partners are E. W. French, Harrison Howard, Daniel H. Arnold, and Fred. Sherman.

This business, too, was begun in a small way. The original proprietor started it forty years ago. The business has so increased, however, that about fifty workmen are employed. The mill is close to the railroad station, but the firm have another establishment of almost equal size in Providence. They use from 300,000 to 350,000 feet of lumber annually. But these figures do not give a full representation of the extent of their business; for they have a great amount of work done for them in various places in the country, where forests and water power are more abundant.

KENYON, DROWN & CO.

In going up Broad street, after passing D. D. Sweet & Co., a visitor sees the shop of Kenyon, Drown & Co. These parties are successors of others who for years carried on a like business. It was started, indeed, by Mr. Nathaniel Lewin about forty years ago. He afterward took some partners, and the firm assumed the name of Lewin, Fisk & Kenyon. At a later time it bore the name of Lewin, Kenyon & Co. Mr. Lewin, however, died in 1870, and then the present style was adopted.

But what is the special business of these parties? The building of mills, flumes, dams, water wheels, etc. Beside this, they do general house work, and give special attention to the making of brackets, moldings, and like articles. In times of business activity this firm has employed two hundred men,

and done work to the amount of \$200,000 per year. And their facilities for work are undiminished.

PAWTUCKET LUMBER AND BUILDERS' SUPPLY CO.

Going up Broad street, a little farther to the north, the traveler reaches the mill of this company. The business was started about 1850 by S. S. & J. A. Humes. The present company was incorporated and organized the present year, with a capital of \$100,000.

The business to which they give special attention is the manufacture of all kinds of wood work,—boxes, tanks, kiers, scroll work, sashes, blinds, doors, etc. The establishment is large enough to employ a hundred men. And in addition to the kinds of work mentioned, the mill can make every kind of moldings.

When it started, a steam engine of 15 horse power was deemed sufficient; now an engine of 100 horse power is used.

BLISS & CARPENTER.

This firm occupy buildings on Pleasant street, and have there a steam planing mill. They were successors to A. R. Slade & Co. As contractors and builders, they are prepared to rear buildings of any size. In their mill they have facilities for making gothic, circular, and plain window and door frames. They manufacture also brackets, scroll and fancy work, and moldings of every size and description.

These gentlemen have been proprietors for about a dozen years, and have used on some years 400,000 feet of lumber. In times of business prosperity they employ from forty to forty-five workmen.

J. N. POLSEY & CO.

The cars, in journeying to Providence, pass, just after leaving the station, the mill of J. N. Polsey & Co., on the left hand side of the railroad. The business carried on by this firm is the manufacture of boxes. It was started by Mr.

Polsey in 1857, on a small scale, but has grown in the course of years to great magnitude. At present there are associated with Mr. Polsey, Messrs. Joseph P. and William B. Haskins.

The power is supplied by a steam engine, which runs ample machinery. Thirty workmen are employed, and about two millions and a half feet (2,500,000) of boards are annually converted into boxes. They manufacture every kind of boxes from one-eighth of an inch in thickness up to an inch; and from one foot surface measurement up to one hundred feet. Half of the product is shipped to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

L. UPHAM & CO.

In the same mill, L. Upham & Co. have their quarters. They are pattern makers, designers, and builders of stone derricks. Like so many others, they began in a comparatively humble way, but have seen their business grow from year to year. Starting in 1857, they have added to their facilities, and now have machinery which enables them to answer orders with promptitude. They employ a dozen or fifteen workmen, and make 25 thread dressers, and 30 or 40 derricks a year. They have added during the past year a room for making moldings, brackets, and like articles, and furnish all kinds of wood work to machinery.

D. A. ARNOLD & SON.

In another part of the same mill, D. A. Arnold & Son carry on business as pattern and model makers. They employ seven or eight workmen, but their effective machinery enables them to do a great deal of wood work for cotton machinery, viz: of twistors, spinning frames, etc. They also saw materials for house carpenters, brackets and other fancy work, and do band and scroll sawing and turning. They are accustomed to fit up stores and offices too.

ATWOOD, CRAWFORD & CO.

Going south from Greene & Daniels' mill, the first establishment encountered on the bank of the river is that of the above-named firm. Their special business is that of manufacturing spools. The originator of the business was Mr. Robert Cushman. He began the business in Central Falls, but in 1857 he received his brother George as a partner, and removed to a stone building on the site of the present structure.

Mr. Cushman was the first recent builder on what is now Pleasant View. When he began operations, the only edifices in that now populous district were the old farm-house, and an antiquated slaughter-house that had been altered into a dwelling. The writer recollects, indeed, hearing a lady, in 1863, who lived on the western side of the river, tell how she was wont every morning, on arising, to look over to Pleasant View, to see if a new house had not gone up during the night. Such was the rapidity with which buildings were reared, after Mr. Cushman had given an impulse to the matter, that one saw the propriety of the lady's humorous remark. The manufacture of spools is a somewhat complicated process, but Mr. Cushman devised a new series of machines, which wrought a revolution in the business.

The brothers Cushman continued in business from 1857 to 1866. In the latter year, however, George died, but the firm continued by limitation for two years longer. In 1869 a new partnership was formed, under the style of Cushman, Phillips & Co., which continued till 1875. At that time Mr. Cushman withdrew, and the new firm was formed. Few persons have any notion of the number of spools made in this establishment. The present consumption of wood for the manufacture of goods by this firm is from 500,000 to 800,000 feet per year.

The number of workmen employed is forty. Twelve sets of machines are in use. And beside making spools, the company are engaged in the manufacture of handles, toys, and a multitude of ingenious instruments. It is possible to

turn out from this single establishment 22,000 gross per month.

MESSRS. E. JENCKES & CO.

Occupy the upper stories of the Old Slater Mill. Mr. N. P. Hicks, who is a member of this firm, began the manufacture of improved ring travelers in 1853. He had had experience as an overseer in a spinning room, and become painfully aware of the defects of the old instrument. One grave demerit in former ring travelers was a lack of uniformity in numbers in regard to weight. Satisfied by trial that he could make those little instruments with greater exactness and delicacy, he began the manufacture of them on a small scale in his own house, after the day's work was finished at the mill. He soon demonstrated that his travelers would secure a great saving and enable a workman to accomplish one-third more work.

Mr. Hicks began the manufacture first in Valley Falls, removed thence to Providence, and finally came to Pawtucket in 1867. He has had various associates, and done business under different styles, viz: N. P. Hicks & Co., Hicks & Sprague, N. P. Hicks, and as agent for Olney Arnold. The present firm has existed since 1871. Since he became associated with Messrs. Jenckes, they have been steadily increasing their facilities and enlarging their business, and now their goods are widely used in our own country, and extensively exported to Europe.

After beginning the manufacture of the little article named, Mr. Hicks devised improved machines for making gimlet-pointed wire goods for cotton and woolen machinery. Indeed, spinning rings, wire goods, cotton banding, and manufacturers' supplies of every kind, are furnished by these parties, and constant efforts are put forth to improve the modes of making the articles to which the firm give their attention, and to better their quality. Some incidental statistics may serve to show the character and increase of their business. About four years ago they used 3000 pounds of cotton weekly for

banding and twine; they now consume double the amount. At that time they produced from 25 to 30 tons of belt hooks and wire goods annually; but they have also doubled that product.

H. F. JENKS & CO.

Passing down Mill street from the lane which conducts to the Old Slater Mill, one comes to Wilkinson place, leading to the Lefavour mill. In the second story of this mill, Messrs. H. F. Jenks & Co. have established themselves. (Another Jenks clinging to the iron trade.) Their special business is the manufacture of builders' hardware. The business was started in 1865, but, like so many other branches of Pawtucket industry, has been constantly widening its range. The specialty in the outset was the making of window springs; and the establishment has produced great quantities of them for our own land, and also shipped large exportations to Europe. In the course of time the inventive genius of the proprietors has devised or improved various house trimmings, and fashioned contrivances for household comfort too numerous to be mentioned. An improved spinning ring has also been invented, and is made in this mill. In fact, the enterprising proprietors have obtained eight patents.

The mill is run by water power, and has facilities for twenty workmen. And a further remark may be made applicable to both the firm just mentioned, and many others. While they have made several ingenious contrivances that might be patented, they adopt at times a different policy. Abstaining from the expense of patenting, and the annoyance and worry of carrying on suits for violation of patent rights, they provide machinery for making their wares as economically as possible, and then offer their goods at the lowest prices. In this way they escape or defy hurtful competition.

JAMES BERNEY.

In another part of the same mill may be found the quarters of its owner, Mr. James Berney. Mr. Berney carries on two

or three branches of business. In the first place, he manufactures various kinds of brass goods,—book ornaments of every kind, and every species of brass trimmings. In this department he employs twenty-five workmen,—men and boys. He has been engaged in this employment about a dozen years.

He also makes boot and shoe lacings of every kind. In this department he employs about thirty operatives. He has been occupied about five years in this branch. Beside these, he has a small dye-house, for dyeing cotton yarn, and does not only his own dyeing, but some job work.

In his establishment also may be found a boot and shoe stretcher, a very ingenious contrivance invented by Mr. Owen F. Garvey. It is a patented article, and, as Mr. Berney holds a joint interest in it, it is manufactured in his rooms.

C. D. OWEN.

On the Mineral Spring avenue, close by the Moshassuck, stand the mills of C. D. Owen. Power is supplied for his works by both the river and by a steam engine. The business to which he devotes himself is the manufacture of worsted goods and yarns. He makes both Italian cloth and zephyr yarn. He employs about two hundred and eighty operatives, and, when in full operation, scours 3000 pounds of wool per day. The mill has nine Noble combs.

The present buildings are of brick, were reared in 1868, and went into operation the next spring. They occupy the site of a small cotton mill that formerly stood there.

JEWELRY.

On River street, about two years ago, Messrs. Salisbury & Phillips established themselves. The special business to which they devote themselves is the manufacture of goods for gentlemen's use,—studs, collar buttons, etc. They employ ten men, but have conveniences for twenty.

Mr. D. F. Read has an establishment in the upper story of J. B. Read's block. He has given special attention for years to the manufacture of solid gold rings, and keeps up the purity of those articles. Of late, however, he has added to his business the manufacture of some less costly kinds of jewelry,—as, for instance, of buttons, and like goods.

FIRE ENGINES.

Mr. William Jeffers began the manufacture of fire engines in 1848. For about thirteen years he built hand engines, but in 1861 he commenced building steam fire engines. When he originally began, he adopted a novel plan, and, in beginning the construction of steamers, he also devised an original mode. His engines were found so effective, however, that other parties borrowed his plans without scruple, and thus acknowledged the value of his designs.

Mr. Jeffers's engines have gone to every State in the Union, and have won great commendation. He has built, since he engaged in the business, two hundred and seventeen engines, sixty-three of which were steamers. He estimates the average value of them at two thousand dollars apiece. As he neglected to obtain patents for his improvements, other manufacturers have felt themselves at liberty to adopt them.

Cole Brothers. This firm began to make steam fire engines in 1864. Before that time they were proprietors of a machine and jobbing shop for eleven years. Their shop is extensive enough to employ from thirty to forty men. They have built ten steamers in a year. In addition to the manufacture of such engines, they both make and repair stationary fire pumps, and construct boilers and like articles. Their building is near the corner of Main and Bailey streets.

V. P. WESTCOTT.

Near the shop of the Cole Brothers stands the building of V. P. Westcott. His special business is the manufacture of hames and trimmings. It is a somewhat exceptional

business, and there is no establishment of a like character in the State. Mr. Westcott has carried it on for two years, but it had previously been carried on for thirty years or more by G. B. Perry & Co. The goods made are widely scattered; large quantities of them are sent to the Pacific States, and to almost all other parts of our country. As the work is largely done by machinery, but few workmen are employed. Mr. Westcott added the carriage business to his employment last fall.

BRUSH MANUFACTORY.

On East avenue, not far from Main street, is the brush manufactory of Thayer Brothers. These gentlemen started business here in 1870. If the reader knows nothing of that kind of business, he will learn with amazement that this firm make one hundred and forty kinds of brushes. Of course, this includes many varieties of brushes for jewelers, for print works, and other branches of manufacturing. All kinds of brushes, too, for cotton and woolen goods are supplied. The firm employ fourteen workmen.

CARD BOARD.

The manufacture of card board has become a somewhat important branch of industry in this town. The business was originally started by Elder Ray Potter. He began, indeed, with another branch of industry. His first attempt was to make lamp-black, in the old steam planing mill; from that he proceeded to the manufacture of glazing paper for his box manufactory. His experiments in the latter matter led him to undertake the manufacture of card board. This was done in 1844. Of course, his first attempts were on a small scale, but the business steadily increased, and even in 1853 was quite large for the times.

In 1858 Mr. Henry B. Dexter bought out the establishment, just to the west of the present East avenue, and assumed the charge of the business. He had as business partners Messrs.

Simon W. Dexter and Daniel S. Dexter. In the following year Messrs. David Ryder and H. H. Thomas took an interest in the business, Mr. Thomas taking the charge. Under Mr. Thomas, the business was largely increased. They subsequently withdrew, and the business of what is called the Rhode Island Card Board Company is now carried on by Mr. Henry B. Dexter and Mr. George H. Clark.

This is supposed to be the first establishment in the country, probably in the world, that undertook to make card board by machinery. Even now this material is made in Europe mainly by hand.

The proprietors make every description of card boards, from the most delicate to the most substantial; and provide them for the use of stationers, photographers, and printers. They make their goods, when desired, in continuous strips of any thickness, length or width.

Machinery is extensively employed, and twenty-five workmen are busied in the establishment. They produce about ten thousand sheets per day, but can, if need be, increase the product to twelve thousand sheets.

A younger establishment in the same branch of business is found on Bailey street. It is carried on by Linton Brothers & Co., who started in business in 1871. Availing themselves of years of experience in manufacturing, they have liberally supplied themselves with improved machinery. They have twelve preparing machines, five finishing machines, and one for hanging up their paper unlike any in the country. They employ about twenty-five workmen, and manufacture daily ten thousand sheets of card board, and have facilities for still larger production.

PAPER BAGS.

Mr. Joseph L. Abbott has a shop on River street for the manufacture of paper bags. Those useful articles are in so great demand that Mr. Abbott's inventive skill has been taxed to supply machines for making them rapidly and

economically. He has, therefore, devised four machines, by which he can fold and cut the paper, and paste and count the bags. He makes twenty-seven regular sizes of bags by these machines. He furnishes a hundred sizes in all, but the demand for the other classes is not great enough to warrant special machines.

Mr. Abbott was smitten by blindness sixteen years ago, but still beholds with the inward eye, so as to contrive many skillful machines. Before his calamity overtook him, he invented an improved mode of making ropes, so as to manufacture them with greater speed and a more even tension. For this he obtained a patent in 1855. In 1866 he invented a self-acting measure for liquids, and assigned the patent to Charles Pratt, of Reynolds, Pratt & Co., New York. In 1868 he obtained a patent for calendering and polishing brass wire. In numerous cases he has assisted other parties in devising or perfecting inventions, for which they obtained the patents. Thus he aided some persons in perfecting a mode of polishing, insulating, and finishing electricians' wires. In other cases he has surrendered to parties, for a trifling compensation, valuable inventions which they craftily claimed to be infringements on patents of their own. As his blindness subjects him to grave disadvantages, he has been ready to sell out inventions for a simple recompense for his time, rather than endure the annoyance, and incur the expense, of suits at law. And he has been deterred from seeking to obtain patents, by the thought that the meagre demand for some article will not tempt parties to pirate his inventions. Of the class last named is a device for giving a spiral motion to the winding of yarn to be put on bonnet wire and electricians' wire.

PAYNE & MATHEWSON.

Almost at the outlet of the famous Sargent's Trench stands a wooden building, occupied in the lower story as a blacksmith shop; but in the upper story by Payne & Mathew-

son. These gentlemen give their main attention to the manufacture of spoolers. They have been in this business for ten years. The spoolers are adapted to every variety of textile fabric,—cotton, woolen, or silk. And as they are one of a very few establishments that make the manufacture of spoolers a special matter, their goods go to every part of the country. From Canada to Texas their customers come. They have invented a cone spooler, for which they have obtained a patent. In addition to such articles, they make every variety of spindles. Their conveniences allow them to employ forty men.

J. O. DRAPER & CO.

At the corner of Front and Clay streets stands the soap manufactory of the above-named gentlemen. Mr. Draper, in connection with Mr. Abner Atwood, started the business in 1861. More recently the firm has consisted of Mr. Draper and Mr. A. W. Stanley. The proprietors make every kind of soap,—family, factory, and toilet. Their customers are largely in the neighborhood of Pawtucket, but their facilities are extensive enough to supply a large circle. They have four kettles, two of which hold 20,000 pounds each, one 14,000 pounds, and the other 12,000 pounds.

They usually employ eight or ten men. They give special attention to the making of two kinds of soap. One of them they style the Nottingham Curd Soap, which is largely used in print works; the other is called the English Fig Soap, and is deemed very serviceable in washing wools.

GREENE BROTHERS' MILL.

Greene Brothers' mill is a hive of industry. The water power is sufficient to supply many small establishments. Here the visitor will find the rooms of W. A. Beatty & Co. In 1865 they began business here as manufacturers of jewelers' materials, but abandoned that in 1872. In 1870, however, they commenced the making of jewelry. They are well

supplied with dies, presses, and the various appurtenances for successfully conducting their business, and have room and machinery capable of giving employment to sixty men.

In the same mill can be found the unique establishment of C. D. Tuttle. His specialty is the manufacture of jet jewelry. Mr. Tuttle served an apprenticeship in that home of artistic skill, Paris, and then concluded to transplant the business to our land. His rooms seem perfect in themselves; for he makes all the materials, rolls the plate, prepares the glass, and does the entire work. Mr. Tuttle claims to be a pioneer in that branch of tasteful industry in our country, and his establishment is said to be the only one where all the details of the business are performed. Every kind of jet work is manufactured, and the various patterns exhibit refined taste. Mr. Tuttle has facilities for employing fifty or sixty workmen. The more delicate part of the labor is performed by the slender fingers of girls.

In the same mill may be found the quarters of the New York Braid Company. This is a branch of a larger establishment in Providence, having Mason & Brothers as agents. It is a new establishment, and has been in Pawtucket but a few months, but its managers give attention to the manufacture of worsted braid.

In this mill, too, Hathaway & Carter have lately started one branch of the jewelry manufacture. They give special attention to the making of chain swivels. Beginning, as they did, at the commencement of the present panic, they have but slowly developed their business. For the present, they do the chief part of their own work, but are preparing for a better future.

Another manufacturer carries on still another kind of business in the same edifice. Mr. John J. Kenyon makes shoe laces, and occupies an entire story. Here he has been quartered ever since the mill was rebuilt, and has supplied

himself with ample machinery for his work. In times of business activity he can profitably employ fifteen workmen.

Mr. Parley Brown is another occupant of this mill. He is engaged in the manufacture of spool cotton, and also of dressed and glazed thread. Mr. Brown does not spin his own cotton, but buys his yarn. The machinery in his room consists of thread dressers, and spooling and winding machines. His thread is of all colors and numbers. One branch to which he gives special attention is the supplying of other manufacturers with glazed thread ready for use. It is wound on spools, weighing a pound or more, and is very serviceable for the making of fringes and like articles. Mr. Brown employs thirty operatives, and sells goods to the amount of about \$70,000 per year. He began his business in Pawtucket in 1870.

In this building, too, and the ones that preceded it, Mr. Jeffers long carried on his business, and built the fire engines which have given his name celebrity.

B. P. CLAPP & CO.

Occupy an establishment on the eastern side of the river, just above Division street bridge. Their special business is the manufacture of aqua ammonia from ammoniacal water obtained from gas works. Mr. Clapp started this business alone, in 1859. And the business itself is but an illustration of the useful results attained by the application of chemical science. Many an article once deemed worthless, or hurried away as a nuisance, is now utilized and made to minister to the arts. When Mr. Clapp began, he used 400 gallons of that refuse water per day. Now, he and his associates find 2500 gallons not excessive. The last-named quantity yields about a ton of aqua ammonia. The article is used in calico printing, in the manufacture of wall paper, and in dyeing.

After a few years Mr. Clapp had as a partner for a time Mr. Preserved W. Arnold. His present partners are Messrs. Walter E. Colwell and Marvin H. Leavens. These gentlemen

employ six workmen beside themselves. The value of their product is about thirty thousand dollars per year. The main expense is the cost of transportation, labor, fuel, and interest of capital. A large share of the ammoniacal water is obtained in Providence, and brought thence in bulk in a steam barge.

They make, also, from the same kind of water, nitrate of ammonia, for service of dentists in making laughing gas.

MINOR MANUFACTURES.

Among the minor manufactures of Pawtucket may be enumerated several that cluster around the Old Slater Mill. Mr. Remember R. Carpenter, for instance, occupies the very room in the old brick shop that was used by Mr. Slater for a yarn room. Mr. Carpenter's special business is the manufacture of reels. They are constructed of wood and iron, and Mr. Carpenter has made great improvements on Mr. Slater's patterns. These instruments are used for reeling both cotton and wool, and are sent very widely through the country. Indeed, the manufacture of them is so exceptional that parties from remote States seek a supply from Mr. Carpenter's establishment. After the late war broke out, the demand for reels largely increased. The duties imposed on some classes of foreign goods rendered the manufacture of similar goods profitable in this country. In making gingham, or any goods that need be bleached or colored before manufacturing, reeling is indispensable. And as zephyr yarns are made to considerable extent in our neighborhood, their delicacy demands the use of reels.

In the lower story of the shop just named, Mr. Charles A. Luther manufactures patterns and cloth stretchers. He began the business in Pawtucket about three years ago. Although his establishment seems small, employing about half a dozen hands, yet, by the use of power, he makes a good many machines annually. Mr. Luther has invented several contrivances which have been patented, and makes no less than five kinds of stretchers. Some of them, indeed,

are quite complicated, and require brass in their construction to the value of a hundred dollars apiece, beside iron and other materials.

J. Crocker & Son are also on the grounds of the old historic mill. Their specialty is the manufacture of coffin trimmings. The elder Mr. Crocker started in this business fifteen years ago, but for the last five years his son has been associated with him. They use, in the making of their goods, lathes, presses, and stamps, as in the manufacture of jewelry; and give employment to twenty-five persons. Their goods are sold by jobbers, not to the undertakers, and are widely distributed. They are sold by the gross, and the establishment is able to make two hundred gross per day.

A few rods from the rooms of Crocker & Son stands the shop of Samuel Cope. His business is the manufacture of hand-cut files. He began here about four years ago, and makes all kinds of files. In ordinary times he employs ten workmen, and can turn out from fifty to sixty dozen of files per week.

Down Jenks avenue, in what is called the Jenks mill, may be found the spinning rooms of Mr. George Cooper. Mr. Cooper is a manufacturer of stockinet, and spins not only the yarns which he uses for his own goods, but hosiery yarn and thread. He runs 1800 spindles, and employs thirteen operatives. He has besides, at the corner of Cottage and Saunders streets, a small mill, run by steam, for knitting. Here he has twenty-two knitting machines, and ordinarily employs twelve laborers. He has been engaged in the business eight years. He started with but three machines. With his present machines he can make from 1400 to 1600 pounds knitting per week.

In the Jenks mill may also be found the rooms of the Pawtucket Braid Company. This is a comparatively young company, and has existed for about four years. The special goods manufactured are shoe laces, corset laces, and fancy

cords. About two hundred and fifty braiding machines are in use, and fifteen operatives employed.

JOSEPH SMITH CO.

Deal extensively in doors and blinds, and manufacture gutters, conductors and moldings. In this department they use between two and three hundred thousand feet of lumber a year. Their place of business is by the Landing, on the eastern side of the Pawtucket.

GRAIN MILL.

In 1863 the grist mill, which had been rebuilt in 1808, after having been swept away in the previous year, was pulled down to build a more spacious flouring mill. For a time it was carried on by Mr. Nathaniel M. Burr. Subsequently he induced several gentlemen to enter into the business as special partners. Messrs. Charles Moies, G. L. Spencer, H. H. Thomas, Olney Arnold, Robert Sherman, George L. Littlefield, D. G. Littlefield, S. W. Dexter, D. S. Dexter, and some others, contributed capital, and adopted the style of N. M. Burr & Co. The enterprise, however, turned out disastrously. Among other drawbacks, the mill was burnt out in December, 1868. The company was dissolved after a while, and the mill was subsequently carried on for a time by the Roger Williams Flour Company, of Providence.

The present occupants of the building are Wilbur & Tingley. They make but little flour, but employ the power mainly in grinding grain. They are accustomed to grind from 1000 to 1200 bushels daily. Until recently the style was Wilbur, French & Co. This firm run the mill for two years, when Mr. French retired.

L. B. DARLING & CO.

Carry on an extensive business at the place known as Mineral Springs. The senior partner began with a some-

what different business in 1852. At that time he devoted his establishment to the butchering of animals for the market, and the rendering of tallow and bones, and the preparation of tripe.

In 1865, however, he began to grind bones for fertilizers, and also for feeding cattle and for mechanical purposes. Though at that time he carried on this business on a somewhat small scale, he has gradually enlarged it, till now he consumes nearly all the bones collected in Providence and the vicinity.

Within a few years a brother of his has become associated with him, and the firm has adopted the style named. In the business which they now carry on, one sees how chemical discoveries enable men to utilize scores of the substances once wasted. Putrefaction is made to minister to life. Within the past year these gentlemen have put into their establishment all the drying apparatus and improvements that are now used by the abattoirs at Brighton, Mass., for utilizing the offal, blood, and like substances obtained from the slaughter-houses in the outskirts of this town. This refuse is converted into a powerful animal fertilizer, and this and their ground bone are ranked among the best fertilizers in the market. Some notion may be formed of the amount of business thus done, when it is mentioned that the refuse of 20,000 cattle and 75,000 hogs is brought to Messrs. Darling's works annually, to be converted into fertilizers.

Though they have abandoned butchering, they continue the work of rendering tallow, and supply 800 tons per year. The larger portion of this is shipped to foreign countries. They manufacture 1000 tons of fertilizers a year. In performing their work, liberal steam power is demanded. Their boilers are 135 horse power; their engines, 100 horse power.

THE ABATTOIRS.

A special branch of industry deserves to be spoken of. Every person who passes from Pawtucket to Providence, in

the cars, notices on the right side of the track, about half way between the stations, extensive abattoirs. Here three or four parties prepare animals for the market. The two larger establishments are carried on by Comstock & Son, and Comstock & Co. The former trade in cattle, the latter in hogs. They have two large abattoirs, each 120 by 80 feet. In them are all the conveniences for receiving and slaughtering cattle for the shambles, hogs for packing or for sale fresh. Ice is provided in abundance, which is raised by steam power to the receiving rooms, and the meat, after the animals are slain, is taken into those rooms for cooling, till the heat is subdued.

Perhaps information as to some details of the business may be gratifying. The parties named, then, have agents in Chicago for the purchase of supplies. One gives his time to the selection of cattle, the other to that of hogs. The animals thus purchased are started in cars, which are expected to make prompt time. The Messrs. Comstock have special agents, also, at Buffalo and Albany. At each city the trains stop for a few hours, and the beasts are taken from the cars, fed, allowed to drink, and let rest. Trains which start from Chicago on Monday morning, reach Pawtucket Friday forenoon. A side track runs along by the works named, and pens for hogs are constructed, whose doors are abreast the doors of the cars. A plank of the width of a door permits the beasts to step from the car without confusion, and each pen is large enough to accommodate the freight of a single car. There is a house, indeed, 180 feet in length by 70 feet in breadth, with twenty pens, which can accommodate 3000 hogs, and give them shelter. Every pen has ample water, and conveniences for feeding, and, as every pen is separate, the animals can find seclusion and rest after their long journey.

There are like accommodations for the cattle that arrive. There are spacious pens for their reception, supplied with an abundance of pure water, and room and convenience for feeding. Sufficient shelter is also provided in event of storms or cold weather.

After allowing the beasts time enough to recover from the fatigue of their journey, they are successively taken up a gentle incline into the abattoir. As much of quiet as possible is maintained, and everything about the building is kept scrupulously neat. At present, about 500 cattle per week are killed for the supply of Providence, Pawtucket, and other towns and cities in Rhode Island, and the neighboring parts of Massachusetts; and from 1200 to 1500 hogs are also slain. So great are the facilities, that double the number could be killed and prepared for market, if need were.

Not all the pork, however, obtained from such an army of hogs is consumed in this neighborhood; but, while the leaner portions are furnished for local markets, the rest, after being cooled in the ice room, is salted and prepared for exportation. Messrs. Comstock & Co. not only sell to exporters, but ship large quantities themselves to Antwerp and other foreign ports.

In addition to the buildings named, these gentlemen have spacious stables for the accommodation of the horses needed in their business, and sixteen tenements for the residence of their workmen. They employ fifty men in both establishments, and supply a great many retail markets.

Perhaps the reader will ask if a great capital is not needed to carry on such a business. Certainly. The simple item of freight amounts to \$17,000 per month. Of course, the value of meat varies in different seasons and different years, but the aggregate amounts to millions. A moderate estimate places the sales of pork at a million and a quarter of dollars, and the sales of beef at a million and three-quarters, making a total of three millions of dollars per year. No establishments of like character in the country equal these.

Another firm that carry on business here is that of I. B. Mason & Co. They have occupied the grounds for about two years and a half. They have two buildings for their business. The slaughter house is 90 by 40; the packing building, 125 by 50. They deal wholly in hogs, and their works are extensive enough to allow their killing 250 per

day. Their supplies are also obtained from Chicago, and the details as to modes of transportation, care for the comfort of the beasts, convenience for receiving and caring for them, which have been given with respect to Messrs. Comstock, are applicable to Messrs. Mason & Co. All that humanity counsels, and neatness demands, is sought.

These gentlemen have facilities for cutting and packing 200 hogs per day. Is it asked how much they weigh? Not far from 250 pounds per head. Such parts of the animal as are sought fresh, are disposed of to local dealers. The residue is cured, and a large part of it is shipped to foreign lands. The number of men employed by this firm in the various details of their business varies from thirty to thirty-five.

To give completeness to this account, it is necessary to mention the establishment of H. W. Clarke. His business is the slaying and preparation of sheep, lambs, and calves. Of course, he needs not so large buildings as the other parties named, but those he has, cover a good deal of space. They occupy, inclusive of pens, an acre of ground; and other fields are at his disposal in case of need.

His supplies come chiefly from Buffalo, or still farther west, and he kills from 500 to 1000 sheep and lambs per week. His grounds and facilities, however, are extensive enough to allow his preparing an indefinitely large number when demanded. He employs eight men, and supplies local markets for a radius of a score or two of miles. He has the same conveniences for water and like matters with his neighbors.

In the foregoing pages an attempt has been made to give some of the statistics of manufacturing industry in Pawtucket. For two centuries the region has had but few startling experiences of fire and flood. It was long a boast in the classic land that never had the women of Attica seen the smoke of an enemy's camp. It may be gratefully said by the inhabitants of this town, that scarce any foes have approached her borders since Philip perished at Mount Hope,

two hundred years ago. The chief staple of this town's history, therefore, is the establishment and development of new forms of useful industry. And in this respect the annals of the town are rich. It had been pleasant to give some numerical statements in summing up, but the reserve of one or two corporations deprived the writer of anything but very meagre details. It must suffice, therefore, to mention that the whole number of spindles in the town is one hundred and eighty-eight thousand, five hundred and fifty-two.

This account of the industry of the town must not be closed, however, without mentioning that the place abounds in skillful workmen in the various mechanic arts. The growth of the town has demanded the services of carpenters, joiners, painters, and other craftsmen, and thrift has furnished the means of gratifying taste. And the labors of the artisans of Pawtucket are sought not merely in the place of their abode, but in all the region around. Hundreds of industrious mechanics who reside here, work in the neighboring city.

Of course, shrewd and enterprising merchants supply the various articles needed for subsistence and household comfort, and there are special traders who deal in articles largely used in the industry of the place. The General Government has made small appropriations, from time to time, for the deepening of Pawtucket river. By consequence, the navigation has been so improved that vessels drawing not over ten feet of water can come to the wharves. Scores of thousands of tons of coal, and hundreds of thousands feet of lumber are annually transported hither, at but a trifling freight above what is paid to Providence. Railroad facilities are also ample, and flour and grain from the west, and raw materials and dyes for manufacturers, are landed almost at the doors of the mills.

In one department of industry, to be sure, the town can indulge in but little boasting. The uncomplimentary description which Roger Williams and Gregory Dexter gave of the western section of the town over two centuries and a quarter

ago, has been quoted. The fact that it is upland and rocky, and lacks meadow, however, fits it admirably for residences, though it forbids the expectation of many very fertile farms. A few creditable farms may, indeed, be found on each side of the river; but most of them have been made so mainly by skillful labor. The chief thrift of the town springs not from agriculture, but from manufacturing.

NEWSPAPERS.

“Of making many books,” said the wise man, “there is no end.” The same assertion holds of newspapers in modern times. Within a few years, to be sure, the expense of publishing well-conducted newspapers has so increased, that a man tempted to enter into rivalry with journals already established, may well sit down and count the cost. A half, nay, even a quarter, of a century ago, the expense was relatively less; and, by consequence, many were tempted to try the experiment of starting a new paper. Pawtucket has witnessed such experiments again and again. The list of journals ushered into life here, destined soon to expire, is quite long. Some of the names are very pretty. The New England Artizan, Truth’s Advocate, John the Baptist, Midnight Cry, Rose and Lily, Sparkling Fountain, Battle Axe, Temperance Regulator, Mercantile Reporter, Business Directory, Observer, Herald,—these and like titles failed to save them from doom. Not one of them lives in the town to-day.

The only paper which has escaped the common fate is the Gazette and Chronicle. This journal is the representative and successor of two journals whose joint names it bears. On November 12th, 1825, a paper made its first appearance in Pawtucket. It styled itself the Pawtucket Chronicle and Manufacturers’ and Artizans’ Advocate. Its publisher was Mr. John C. Harwood. It was a creditable sheet, in point of size, for half a century ago, but would be deemed a diminutive sheet now. It was a paper of twenty columns,—five to a

page,—and the columns were eighteen inches in length. A year from that time, the name of William H. Sturtevant was announced as editor. He was then a lawyer in the town. After a few weeks the paper passed into the hands of Carlile & Brown, of Providence. Their management was unsatisfactory, however, and on February 12th, 1827, Mr. Randall Meacham appeared on the stage as the proprietor. In the outset, the paper had been printed in a rickety wooden building on Main street, standing on the site of the Read block; but Mr. Meacham removed it nearly opposite, to an “office contiguous to the Pawtucket hotel.” Mr. Meacham enlarged it considerably, and proved himself a good printer and a man of decided ability. In September, 1828, he enlarged the paper still more. In July, 1829, he received as an associate in managing the paper Mr. Samuel M. Fowler, who had previously edited the Warren Northern Star. Mr. Fowler imparted fresh ability to the paper, but seems to have lacked one merit that would be prized in an editor to-day. He had no tact for collecting local news. Perhaps he thought that, as the community was small, everybody could easily find out what was going on. In February, 1831, Mr. Fowler purchased Mr. Meacham’s interest in the paper, and became sole editor and proprietor. But his health soon failed, and in the summer of the following year he went to the south to invigorate his frame. He speedily returned, however, to die. Meanwhile, John H. Weeden, Esq., took the editorial charge.

On Mr. Fowler’s decease his widow offered the paper for sale, and it was purchased in the following October by Messrs. Henry and John E. Rousmaniere, of Newport. Though men of much ability and not a little culture, they seem not to have succeeded in their management of the paper. They carried it on for a few years, but it failed to secure from the public a hearty support. In November, 1836, Mr. J. E. Rousmaniere withdrew from the journal, and his brother remained sole proprietor for a few years longer. The paper

had been offered for sale years before, and in April, 1839, it was announced that it had been sold to the proprietors of the Pawtucket Gazette. And the further advertisement was made that the two papers would "be merged into one publication, under the title of Gazette and Chronicle."

During Mr. Meacham's ownership of the journal, he had altered the title to "Pawtucket Chronicle, and Rhode Island and Massachusetts Register." The new purchasers wisely concluded, however, that it would be too hazardous to undertake to float so long a name, in addition to that of the paper they had been managing, and assumed the briefer title.

A word of the other paper. In August, 1838, Messrs. Robert Sherman and Shubael Kinnicutt, who had been apprentices in the Chronicle office, started the Pawtucket Gazette. They adopted the motto which it still wears. It was printed in the same shattered edifice that had been the cradle of the Chronicle. The proprietors began with but a few subscribers, and amid discouraging prophecies of failure. What they lacked in capital, however, they made up in energy and faith, and secured the utmost economy by doing almost all the work themselves. Patrons slowly increased, however, and when they bought the Chronicle, in April of the next year, they enlarged the sheet, and saw brighter auguries of success. In March, 1841, the Gazette and Chronicle left its narrow and dingy quarters in the old Read building, and removed to the Miller building, on the corner of Main and Mill streets. In the summer of 1849, Mr. Amos M. Read tore down the dilapidated building named, and reared the brick block on the corner of Jenks avenue and Main street. And, as the rooms occupied by the paper seemed too small, the proprietors transferred their establishment to the upper story of the new block, in March, 1850. New quarters, however, seemed but a signal for a new dress. On July 26th of that year the paper came forth with new type, and challenged notice for its improved appearance. At the beginning of 1855 the publishers made a bold experiment.

Enlarging their sheet eight columns, they commended their enterprise to the public. Of course, an increase in advertising patronage must determine whether the proprietors had wisely interpreted the public needs. The public endorsed the action, and in June, 1860, the publishers enlarged their journal still more. For a village sheet, indeed, the paper might be called huge. But the war quickly followed, and caused derangements in business, and a great increase in expenses. It was therefore resolved, though with great reluctance, to reduce the size of the paper. In the beginning of 1863 every page was curtailed one column. On January 1st, 1864, Mr. Ansel D. Nickerson became one of the publishers of the Gazette and Chronicle. With the return of peace the prospects began to brighten, and, in the commencement of 1866, the publishers redeemed their promise to restore the sheet to its former size, as soon as circumstances would warrant.

The office remained in the Read building till March. At that time it was removed to Manchester Hall, where it still remains. The occasion was celebrated by a festive party of patrons and friends on March 30th.

Until 1855 the Gazette and Chronicle was printed on a hand press. In May of that year a Guernsey Improved Patent Cylinder Power Press was supplied; and this in turn was made to give way, in July, 1870, to a larger Potter Cylinder Power Press. On Thanksgiving morning, November 29th, 1866, the paper appeared, printed for the first time by motive power. A caloric engine was used at first to supply the power, but it proved inadequate, and a steam engine was substituted. At present, water power, obtained from the old Lefavour mill, is used, and is preferred on the score of steadiness.

On the 1st of January, 1870, Messrs. Ansel D. Nickerson and John S. Sibley became the publishers of the Gazette and Chronicle, and continued so until April 1st, 1875. At that time Mr. Charles A. Lee purchased an interest in the estab-

lishment, and the style of the firm was changed from Nickerson & Sibley to Nickerson, Sibley & Co. On July 1st, 1870, the paper was enlarged again, and in April, 1873, enlarged anew. The senior and the youngest publisher both served an apprenticeship in the office of the paper which is now under their control, and can reckon that experience has taught them something of the needs of the community that they desire to serve.

Both Messrs. Sherman and Kinnicutt surrendered their control of the journal on the 1st of January, 1870. They had seen it grow from a feeble experiment to a permanent institution. Years of toil, crowned with final success, showed their ability to conduct a journal suited to the needs of a growing town. While their proximity to an energetic city exposed them to a severe rivalry, the fact that the journal they managed both lived and grew, tells of their energy and tact. The present proprietors show no signs of flagging interest or failing power. They are manifestly determined to preserve the high tone of the journal, and to make it a welcome visitant to the homes of Pawtucket. The paper celebrated its semi-centennial a few months ago. May it endure for centuries, and, while celebrating the fame of its projectors, be a power for good in the town whose name it bears!

EDUCATION.

From the peculiar circumstances under which Rhode Island was settled, the State was more tardy than any other New England State to establish common schools. There was such a heterogeneousness in the population, that no general impulse caused them to seek universal education. Providence early sought to set up free schools, indeed, and most of her richer citizens were willing to be taxed for the purpose; but meaner and more short-sighted men foiled their counsels. Nearly two centuries, therefore, rolled away after the settlement of the Colony, before the common school system was adopted. By consequence, on the western side of the river, whatever

formal instruction was supplied, for nearly a century and three-quarters, was furnished by private schools. But Massachusetts was more sagacious. Law ordained from an early time that facilities should be provided for the education of all her youth; and the children of Rehoboth and Seekonk shared in such advantages as the country schools of a century ago could give.

The citizens of Pawtucket were not blind, however, to the advantages of education. Over eighty years ago, in about 1793, a building, whose fame has come down to the present day, was reared, which was known as the Red School House. It stood not far from the present Town Record building, on what is now High street. It was built as a joint stock edifice, and most of the active business men of that time contributed to its erection. Here every kind of public meeting was held, but its special design, as its name indicated, was to furnish a place for schools. The day school was taught, and the evening schools were held, here. Such Sunday schools as were maintained, after the inception of them, were accommodated in this edifice. A convenient arrangement was made soon after its construction, for the benefit of the children on both sides of the river. As the youth east of the Pawtucket were few in number, it was arranged by their parents that they should cross the bridge, and receive instruction at the Red School House. The teacher was compensated for his extra services by a part of the sum raised by the laws of Massachusetts. Subsequently other schools were established west of the river. Dr. Taft, during his earlier residence in Pawtucket, taught a school for advanced scholars; Joseph and Samuel Healey, members of the sect of Friends, taught a school in the Baptist vestry; and Mr. Edmund Bayley kept a school in the basement of his own house, not far from the present school house opposite Armory Hall.

But the time came at last when Rhode Island resolved to rival her sister States in providing free instruction for her

children. In 1828, common schools were established by law. That was the very year in which the Legislature of Massachusetts incorporated the town of Pawtucket. As has already been stated, that town appropriated in the outset three hundred and fifty dollars for the support of schools. From the records of the town, however, it seems that that sum was deemed too liberal; for at five subsequent annual town meetings the appropriation was three hundred dollars *for schooling*. But in 1835 the appropriation was increased to four hundred dollars; and in 1836, to five hundred dollars. From that time there was a steady advance, till it became customary to make an annual appropriation of thousands of dollars. On the western side of the river legal appropriations were made for schools, for the first time, in 1828; but as the village of Pawtucket was simply a district of North Providence, it is less easy to ascertain what portion of the money fell to the western district of the present town of Pawtucket.

The following preamble and vote, however, extracted from the records of town meetings in North Providence, may be thought to have a historic interest. It was at a town meeting held April 16th, 1828, that this action was taken:

“Whereas the General Assembly of this State, at their session in January, 1828, enacted that each town might, on complying with the provisions of that act, receive a proportion of \$10,000 for the purpose of establishing and paying the expenses of Public Schools,—and whereas a warrant was issued and returned which notified the freemen that the consideration would be acted on this day,—It is therefore unanimously

“*Voted*, That a tax of double the sum which shall be apportioned and receivable by this town from the State Treasurer, for the purpose aforesaid, be assessed and collected at the same time that this town and road taxes are assessed and collected for the year ensuing,—provided, however, that the said tax to be so assessed, shall not exceed the sum of six hundred dollars.”

In a mere sketch like the present, it can hardly be attempted to give details about the public schools in both

villages for the last half a century. A few words may be supplied, however, about the High School. At some time previous to 1836 a stock company was formed for the purpose of building and maintaining an Academy. The edifice reared stood on a ledge of rocks near the residence of Hon. James C. Starkweather, on what is now called Walcott street. In this institution both the higher English branches and the languages were taught. Mr. J. Hale, from Cambridge, was the first teacher of the Academy, and was succeeded in later years by Messrs. Vinton, Spaulding, and Robbins, from among the graduates of Amherst College, by Mr. Batchelder, from Brown University, and by Messrs. Leland and Draper. The school rendered useful service; but, on the building of the school houses on Grove and Summit streets, as accommodation was provided for the different grades of schools, the Academy was discontinued, the building sold, and the company dissolved.

But this simply hastened the establishment of a free High School. Population had been steadily increasing, and had reached a number which, according to the laws of Massachusetts, demanded such a school. Some of the citizens had willingly procrastinated; but the School Committee could not reconcile it with their views of duty to the young, or of reverence to law, to tolerate any delay. A High School was accordingly established in May, 1855, and placed under the charge of Mr. William E. Tolman, of Brown University. Mr. Tolman has remained in charge ever since, and reports that the whole number of members for twenty-one years is 792. Of these, 722 were members prior to consolidation, and of this smaller number 21 entered college, 35 became teachers, and 31 entered the army and served in the late war.

The western village, however, was less successful in establishing such a school. Futile attempts were made from time to time by the two districts of North Providence lying along the Pawtucket river, to establish a High School in conjunction with the village of Central Falls; but local jealousies

thwarted the enterprise. The friends of better education, therefore, deemed it wise to wait. Meanwhile a great many of the elder children were sent to private schools in Providence, or across the river to the High School in the eastern town. On both sides of the river, however, even before consolidation, the increasing population made clamorous demands for new school houses; and, when the two villages melted into one municipality, a good many edifices were ready to be entrusted to the new School Committee. A larger High School building seemed a necessity, and, as the edifice of the High Street Baptist Church was for sale, it was purchased by the town, and is now appropriated to the use of that school.

As the present historian has found difficulty in obtaining materials for even this meagre sketch, it may be profitable to give a few statistics of the present year, to help those who in coming years wish to make comparisons, to draw the contrast between the present and a future epoch.

At present, then, there are in the town of Pawtucket sixteen school houses already reared, and two more in process of construction, which are to be ready for use in September of the current year. The estimated value of the buildings already erected, and of the land affixed to them, is one hundred and sixty-two thousand dollars; the cost of the other two will be thirteen thousand dollars; making the entire value one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. There are thirty-six graded schools, and three ungraded ones. The number of different boys registered is 1918; number of different girls, 1953. The number registered over fifteen years of age is 103. The average number belonging to the schools is 1931; the average attendance, 1763. The number of different male teachers employed is five; number of different female teachers employed, forty-two; average number of teachers employed is forty and five-tenths. Aggregate number of months' service performed by male teachers is 50; aggregate number of months' service by female teachers, 355 $\frac{1}{4}$. The amount paid male teachers, board included, is \$6,325; amount paid female teachers, board included, \$15,443.60.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

But perhaps a special class of schools should here be mentioned, since they became the germ of what has since matured into a mighty agent. Sunday schools were started in Pawtucket at an early date, and under special circumstances. Although the attempt to rear a meeting house was begun in 1793, it was years before the edifice was so far completed as to be fit for a congregation, and still longer before a regular preacher was settled. The Sabbath was therefore a day of recreation and amusement, rather than of religious rest. Mr. Slater was compelled to see that moral agencies could not be safely neglected in the community.

Among the boys who came to work in his mill was one that was to make this place his home for nearly three-score years and ten. He came here from Grafton, Mass., and was wont to tell in later years how the first Sunday school in this region was started. He came here a boy eleven years of age, and found an irreverence toward the Sabbath which shocked his sensibilities. Not knowing what to do on that day, he was subjected to peculiar temptations. It so happened that some of the lads who worked with him in the mill were conferring together, one Sunday morning, as to where they should go. Says one of them, "Let's go up to Smithfield, and rob Mr. Arnold's orchard; that will be fine sport." But the youth first named demurred. "I don't believe it is right to go off Sundays to rob people's orchards," said he. Mr. Slater happened to be passing at that moment, and caught a part of the reply. He stops and asks, "Boys, what are you talking about?" He is told of what had been proposed, and one of them adds, "Nat. doesn't think it is right to go off so on Sunday." "No, nor I neither," responded Mr. Slater; and he doubtless feels, if he had never realized the matter before, that he owes a duty to those youth whom God had placed for a time under his charge. He resolves to remove from them one form of temptation; and promptly says, "Boys, go into my house, and I will give you as many apples as you want; and I will keep a Sunday school."

That school was begun in September, 1799. It was composed of seven boys, all of them employed in the cotton mill. It was carried on according to Raikes's model, and furnished secular instruction. The late Capt. Nathaniel G. B. Dexter was of that number, and was employed on subsequent years to teach such a school for the children engaged in the mill. As he was wont to say of that earliest school, its library consisted of two testaments and three Webster's spelling-books. And it is to the honor of Mr. Slater, that, though he was doubtless greatly burdened by the cares of the novel business he had established here, he was not insensible to the claims which those humble youth had on his sympathy and guardianship.

It is possible, indeed, that a Sunday school was kept prior to this for a few weeks, but nothing is known of its history, and it would have lapsed into eternal forgetfulness, had not Capt. Dexter kept alive the knowledge of the school already named. What is known of the earlier school is found in a memorandum in the account books of Almy & Brown, or Almy, Brown & Slater. Under date of November 5th, 1797, the following charge occurs: *Cash paid Benjamin Allen, for teaching a school first days, £2, 14s.* The next date when a similar charge occurs is October 25th, 1800. But the circumstantial account of Capt. Dexter shows that, for years afterward, he was accustomed, during the warmer months of the year, to keep such a school, at the expense of Almy, Brown & Slater. At a later date, as regular religious meetings had meanwhile been established in the village, the mighty possibilities of the Sunday school as an agent for religious culture were discerned, and secular instruction was superseded by religious.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

For nearly a quarter of a century there has been a Library Association in Pawtucket. It was started through an impulse given by a Debating Club that existed in the place

in 1852. It was hoped that such a Library might prove a signal public convenience, and a help in general education. In January of that year a charter was obtained from the General Assembly, and the corporation was organized in the next month. The funds of the corporation were quite meagre, and were mainly derived from the sale of about two hundred shares to nearly as many different persons. The committee to purchase books had at their disposal about a thousand dollars, with which they bought the library of the Masonic Lodge, and the books of a Library Association at Central Falls. The latter organization, indeed, was merged in the new association.

A few friends also contributed books. Dr. George Taft gave a hundred volumes, and the Association began its operations with about 1200 volumes. A cabinet of minerals was also supplied by voluntary bestowal of several members. In subsequent years, Dr. C. Blodgett, Messrs. D. D. Sweet, Daniel Wilkinson, and Jesse S. Tourtellot, and Hons. Thomas Davis, Charles Sumner, and others, aided the Library by liberal gifts of books. For years the institution continued to grow; in 1860 its number of volumes was about 3000; but the steady increase of the population in Pawtucket rendered its constituency comparatively small. More recently, the fewness of its members, and the expense necessarily attendant on the room, prevented much increase in the Library, and for a few years the interest has waned. The experience of other towns also seemed to show, that, for a Library to be a general helper, it must be public. Like the air men breathe, it must be free.

Considerations like these prepared the shareholders to proffer their Library for the general weal, provided the town would accept it and make it a Public Library. After the consolidation, such a proffer found more favor. The town has accepted the charge, and just opened the Library on liberal terms to all her citizens.

For twenty years or more the Library was kept in Read's

block; but since the erection of Spencer's block, commodious rooms have been tendered to the Library, free of charge, for the period of five years. The liberal offer has been accepted, and the Library proffers its treasures, under reasonable restrictions, to all the inhabitants of the place. In addition to the Library, a convenient Reading Room is furnished, where papers and periodicals are supplied; and the town has thus begun to use an important instrument for general education, which, it is hoped, will promote the public weal, and afford special help to studious and thoughtful youth.

The officers first chosen by the original Association were Thomas K. King, President; Jesse S. Thornton, Vice President; Claudius B. Farnsworth, Secretary; James O. Starkweather, Treasurer; Jesse S. Tourtellot, Sylvanus Clapp, Cyrus Benson, Jr., John H. Willard, Alexander Meggett, Trustees.

The officers of the Free Public Library are a Board of Trustees, consisting of the President of the Town Council, the Chairman of the School Committee, and the Superintendent of Public Schools, *ex officio*, and of six citizens at large, to be chosen by the Town Council. These officers have the immediate control and management of the Library. At present the whole number of volumes in the Library is forty-six hundred.

BANKS.

The steady increase of business in Pawtucket led to the establishment of moneyed institutions in 1814. That year witnessed the organization of a bank on each side of the river. The Pawtucket Bank was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts, on June 13th, 1814, with a capital of \$100,000, and remained in existence till about 1850. The Manufacturers Bank was chartered by the General Assembly of Rhode Island in the year named, and remained here till the general prostration of business in 1829. As it suffered heavy losses at that time, it was removed to Provi-

dence. The next bank was styled the Farmers and Mechanics Bank, and was chartered in 1822, or the following year. The same cause that impoverished the Manufacturers Bank nearly ruined this institution. But a new company was organized under its forfeited charter, and afterward existed in Providence, under the name of the Phenix Bank. The New England Pacific Bank was chartered in 1818, and was organized in Smithfield. It suffered various losses there, and was transferred in 1832 to the village of Pawtucket, North Providence, where greater prosperity attended it. The North Providence Bank was chartered in 1834, and was closed in 1868. The Peoples Bank was incorporated in 1846; the Slater Bank in 1855.

The necessities of the General Government during the protracted civil war led to a reorganization of the whole banking system in our country. In 1865 the First National Bank was organized in Pawtucket, with a capital of \$100,000; and, as the Peoples Bank decided to wind up their affairs, its capital was mainly transferred to the First National Bank, and swelled it to \$300,000. Its present officers are Olney Arnold, President, and William H. Park, Cashier. The Slater Bank also became a National Bank in 1865, and now has a capital of \$300,000. Its President is William F. Sayles; Cashier, George W. Newell. The New England Pacific Bank became the Pacific National Bank in 1866, and has a capital of \$200,000. The President is Charles Moies; the Cashier, Thomas Moies.

There are also three Savings Banks in Pawtucket. The eldest is the Pawtucket Institution for Savings, and was chartered in 1828, but did not begin business till 1836. Its present deposits are two millions, four hundred thousand dollars. The President is Charles Moies; the Treasurer, Thomas Moies. The next institution is the Providence County Savings Bank, which was chartered in 1853, and holds deposits to the amount of three millions, seven hundred thousand dollars. Its President is Charles A. Leonard; its

Treasurer, Olney Arnold. The other institution is the Franklin Savings Bank, which was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts in 1857. It holds deposits to the amount of one million, five hundred thousand dollars. The President is Ira D. Ellis; the Treasurer, George W. Newell.

A few observations on such institutions. It will be noticed that all these savings banks have been organized since the disastrous revulsion which befell this town in 1829. One circumstance that aggravated the evils of that revulsion was the utter destruction of confidence. For years prior to that time, unbounded faith was reposed in manufacturers. Scores of economical farmers in the neighboring country towns supposed that the active manufacturers of Pawtucket must needs be growing rich. They therefore loaned their money to them with careless faith. The enterprising men of the village had only to ask, and capital was lent to them without stint. Nay, there is reason to believe that it was proffered to them in many instances unasked. What must needs be the result, where men were sanguine of gain, and anxious to make their place of residence a populous town? Just what happened. Adventurous men entered on daring enterprises. Stepping aside from their legitimate business, wherein they had gained skill, they engaged in speculation in land, and in the rearing of buildings in advance of public needs. Had the capital they were so confidently wielding been their own, they had been able to save something from the wreck, even if a revulsion were ever so severe. But when the revulsion came, their fate was ruin. Capital, which had been ample for their legitimate business, was locked up in wild undertakings, and their property was remorselessly sacrificed. Their creditors in farming towns passed from the extreme of confidence to the extreme of distrust. Henceforth manufacturing, in their vocabulary, meant almost gambling.

Rightly conducted, Savings Banks can be, in a town like ours, a safe medium between the small capitalist and the manufacturer. Consider the amount of deposits in these

three institutions. It reaches the large sum of seven millions, six hundred thousand dollars. Of course, not all of it is used in Pawtucket, but a large share of it is loaned here, and swells the capital of the town. What could the place do without it? How many less dwellings had been reared, how many promising enterprises been checked, but for its help! Now it is a fortunate circumstance that these vast sums are not in the custody of men who are borrowers themselves. These officers should be encouraged to maintain an oversight of the business of borrowers. They are often subjected to unreasoning criticism for denying loans to importunate speculators, but public opinion should commend them in caution and prudent sagacity. Institutions where the little savings of industry and self-denial are stored up, should never be prostituted to help men who overestimate their talents, monopolize all the business of a community. The birth of these institutions was contemporary with the beginning of an era of caution in business, and their growth in resources has been commensurate with the growth of the town. Eleven years ago the deposits of the first two of these institutions was one million, four hundred and twenty-two thousand dollars. They now hold six millions, one hundred thousand dollars. An increase of four millions, six hundred and seventy-eight thousand dollars indicates thrift in the saving classes, and public confidence in the fidelity and skill of the managers of these institutions. May they receive public support in wise and discriminating action!

TAVERNS AND HOTELS.

A brief history of these edifices may cast light on the changes of habits and centres of business. Tradition tells of an old tavern that stood on the western side of the Blackstone, close by the old ford. Doubtless it afforded shelter to weary travelers a hundred and fifty years ago. More definite information exists of a public house that stood not far from the

place now occupied by Capt. Brown's machine shop. It bore the name of the Martin house. Built by a Capt. Comstock for his own residence, it subsequently became a tavern, and was kept by Constant Martin. He paraded before his house a sign, promising entertainment to man and beast. It was suspended between two posts, and displayed a likeness of Oliver Cromwell. Wags styled this a gallows sign, and were wont to add, "Martin has hung the Protector." The memory of that house has, of course, perished from this generation.

Still another tavern stood on the corner of Main and the present Broad street, opposite the Benedict House. The building still stands, and though it has been much razed or curtailed within a few years, it is, as the style of architecture shows, an ancient edifice. It was built about the middle of the last century. The builder of it was Rev. Maturin Ballou, the father of the well-known Rev. Hosea Ballou, long a leader of the Universalist denomination. The father was a preacher in the Baptist denomination, and was also a house carpenter. At that period, from the comparative poverty of the people, and the lack of literary institutions, scholastic training was less insisted on in the ministry. Many a man, gifted with religious zeal and faith, was reckoned an acceptable preacher, provided he was versed in the sacred Scriptures, and fluent in utterance. As less exacting demands of an intellectual character were made on the preacher, he was at liberty to work during the week at any handcraft. The elder Ballou was the father of eleven children, most of whom, save Hosea, were born in this neighborhood. He removed to Richmond, N. H., about 1770. During the Revolutionary war the house was used as a tavern, and was kept by the Mr. Martin already mentioned. At that time it was a rival public house to Col. Slack's, on the opposite side of the river. The house, indeed, subsequently went into the possession of Col. Slack,—to extinguish the rivalry, perhaps.

At a later period a public house stood at the southwest corner of the present High street. Built by David Ballou

almost a century ago, it was occupied as a tavern for over thirty years. It was raised April 8th, 1781, and removed about 1813, when the Lefavour block was reared. In 1812 and 1813 a hotel was reared at the corner of Main and Mill streets. The edifice was built at the expense of David Wilkinson; and for nearly forty years was used exclusively as a public house. For years afterward, however, it was occupied as a bank building and for offices in front, but has remained a boarding house in the rear.

On the eastern side of the river, as has been more than once stated, stood the tavern of Col. Slack. Its site has been designated. Col. Slack came to Pawtucket in 1776, and speedily occupied the building in question. Standing as it did on the sole thoroughfare to Boston, it was much frequented. Here Washington and his suite stopped on their way to Boston, as he went to take command of the army; and here he also called as he went on his way to New York. Lafayette more than once found shelter beneath the hospitable roof; and the Hon. Oliver Starkweather was wont to tell that he saw him, with his national urbanity, in free conversation with the inhabitants of the then little hamlet. After the Bristol and Norfolk turnpike was built, however, early in the present century, Col. Slack caused the hotel now standing on Broadway to be reared, and occupied it for a public house.

Beside these taverns there was the Dolly Sabin house on North Bend. It is reported that the house had been used as a tavern before Miss Sabin purchased it, and a John Bradford kept it. Between eighty and ninety years ago, however, two sisters, by the name of Dolly and Molly Sabin, removed from Providence, and bought the stand. The house was small when they purchased it, but they enlarged it, and, with feminine taste, laid out a spacious garden, and adorned it with fruits and flowers. Much company was thereby attracted to the house beside travelers. Dolly remained unmarried, and has transmitted her name, by the house, to later generations.

The most prominent hotel of the present day, however, is the Benedict House. Named though it was from Stephen

Benedict, Esq., long the President of the Peoples Bank, it would commemorate, were it needful, the fame of Dr. Benedict. For forty-nine years Dr. Benedict lived in the house which was removed to make room for the hotel named. This edifice was built in 1871, and affords ample accommodations to the wayfarer.

CONVENIENCES OF PUBLIC TRAVEL.

In Judge Staples's annals of Providence he publishes a letter from Samuel Thurber of that city, about ancient modes of conveying passengers to Boston. And Judge Staples furnishes further information on the point. These details have a kind of interest for the inhabitants of this town, since the vehicles that carried such passengers must have passed through Main street, and gone by Dolly Sabin's tavern. How many eyes, long since dimmed in death, used to gaze wonderingly at the bold wayfarers that risked the hazards of a journey to Shawmut!

"There would be, now and then," says Mr. Thurber, "a person who wanted a journey to Boston. Col. William Brown, who lived quite at the northeast corner of the town, on a farm, kept what was called a curricie, drawn by two horses; he would be their carrier. It would take him about three days to go and return. After awhile, Thomas Sabin, I think, was the first that set up a stage; he generally went once a week. After him, Robert Currey, then Samuel Whipple; when they got through by daylight, they were thought to do well."

"In July, 1767," says Judge Staples, "we meet with the first advertisement of a regular stage coach running between Providence and Boston. At that date, Thomas Sabin advertises that one 'starts every Tuesday morning from the house of Richard Olney, inn-holder, to carry travelers to Boston, on the most expeditious and cheap rate.' The coach returned on Thursday mornings. Richard Olney's house was nearly

opposite the court house parade, on North Main street. The notice does not state whether the coach went through in a day, or stopped the first night at Wrentham, as it did, according to tradition, in earlier times. In those times, it is said that the owner of a stage coach occasionally gave notice a week or ten days beforehand, that, on a given day, he would start for Boston, if sufficient encouragement offered, taking care to give notice so that his passengers could settle all their worldly affairs and make their wills, before commencing such an arduous and dangerous journey." "In 1783, the stage to Boston run twice a week."

In a little more than forty years after the last-named date, public sentiment had so ripened as to demand a local carriage between Pawtucket and Providence. Horace Field is supposed to be the first man who run a diligence. After a short time he was succeeded by Simon H. Arnold. Perhaps space can properly be spared to reproduce his advertisement, which appeared in the Pawtucket Chronicle, December 10th, 1825. It is as follows :

"PAWTUCKET DILIGENCE."

"The subscriber would inform the Publick that he has recently purchased the stage known by the name of the Pawtucket Diligence, which he intends running twice a day, from this place to Providence. The Diligence will leave Pawtucket, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and 2 o'clock, P. M., and will return from Providence at 12 o'clock and 4 P. M., all in the same day. The Books will be kept at Mr. Blake's Tavern, and the Pawtucket Hotel, in Pawtucket, and at Messrs. Clarke's, Wilder's and Minard's, in Providence.

SIMON H. ARNOLD."

For half a dozen years or more Mr. Arnold seems to have run his diligence. At a later period, Mr. Abraham H. Adams established a coach between Pawtucket and Providence. This also made two trips a day each way. In August, 1836, Messrs. Wetherell & Bennett put on a line of omnibuses, which they continued to run nearly eighteen years. In June,

1854, however, Mr. Sterry Fry bought the line and continued to run his omnibuses till superseded by the horse cars. In May, 1864, Mr. Hiram H. Thomas completed his arrangements, and set the horse cars in motion. In his calculations he had reckoned on a hundred and twenty thousand passengers a year. In a few years the number rose to six hundred and fifty thousand; but such had been the increase in cost by the rise in the prices of horses and iron, that even this number failed to compensate. The passengers finally increased to a million a year. Of course, this included way passengers.

As is well known, however, before the omnibuses were driven from the ground, a new and formidable rival had appeared. The Providence and Worcester Railroad was built to accommodate travelers between those cities. The first locomotive which passed through Pawtucket over the track of that road, came through on Saturday, August 21st, 1847. It bore the name of Lonsdale, and was attached to a gravel train. This was simply prophetic, however; the passenger train over that road began its regular trips on Monday, October 25th, of the same year.

The Boston and Providence Railroad was constructed as early as 1835, and the original station in Providence was near India Point. A branch road, which afterward became the main trunk, however, was built from Pawtucket to East Junction, and trains began to run over it on Wednesday, March 15th, 1848. The Stonington steamboat train commenced running through Pawtucket on Monday, May 1st, 1848. The regular passenger trains between Boston and Providence began to run through this town on June 12th of the same year.

Of course, the numerous trains passing through the town afforded from the outset easy communication with Providence; and the low rates of fare on the Providence and Worcester Railroad have been a great convenience to mechanics, clerks, and others, employed in Providence. At the

present time sixty-three passenger trains pass through this town daily, and fifteen freight trains. Two years ago the number of freight trains was far greater, but a branch road was constructed from Valley Falls to East Providence, which carries freight to deep water, and receives it therefrom. This road passes through the northeastern and eastern part of Pawtucket, and has already given great relief to the town, by lessening the danger caused by an excessive frequency of trains. Cars began to run regularly over the branch road in the fall of 1875.

Beside these railroads, another is now in process of construction, called the Moshassuck Valley Railroad. It starts from the main trunk of the Providence and Worcester Railroad, between Pawtucket and Providence, and follows the valley to the extensive bleachery of Messrs. Sayles. It crosses Mineral Spring avenue just east of Mr. C. D. Owen's mill.

BRIDGES.

It was more than half a century after the settlement of the western village before a bridge was thrown across the Pawtucket. The comparative smallness of the population, and their consequent inability to contribute to the expense, delayed the building of such a structure. And perhaps another reason justified procrastination. The quantity of water in the Blackstone was less regular than it is now. The numerous reservoirs which have been constructed for the service of mills, keep a large volume of water in reserve, that swells the quantity in summer. At that early period, however, during the warmest season of the year, it was easy, most of the time, to ford the stream just below the falls; and in the winter the ice often built a free bridge. But early in the last century the subject of a bridge began to be agitated. The Colony of Rhode Island invited Massachusetts to join with her in providing such a convenience. A committee seems accordingly to have been appointed by the Legislature

of the latter Colony in 1712, to consider where the bridge should be built. On May 29th they made the following

REPORT:

"We are humbly of opinion, that a place called Pawtucket Falls, near the Iron works on said river, is the most suitable place to erect said bridge, and, when built, [it] may be of benefit to some parts of this Province, especially it will be of service for traveling into the Narraganset country, Connecticut, and New York, at all times of the year, particularly in the winter season, when, by rising of the water, and great quantity of ice coming down the river, it is very difficult and hazardous, which, if there be a bridge, will make travelling more easy and safe.

ISAAC WINSLOW and four others, Com."

Massachusetts Colony Records, Vol. ix, pp. 273, 274.

(The expression "the Iron works" justifies the belief, that even at that early time a good deal was doing here in both smelting and manufacturing iron.)

The first bridge was accordingly built at the expense of the two colonies in 1713. Probably it was a fragile structure, for in sixteen years the General Assembly voted to rebuild it, provided Massachusetts would pay half the expense. But that Colony procrastinated for some reason, and the Assembly ordered it to be "demolished, that it may not remain as a trap to endanger men's lives." Gov. Jenks was then Governor of Rhode Island, and his brother William acted as a committee in behalf of the Colony to see to the work of pulling the bridge down. Massachusetts was also represented by a committee. But both residents and travelers missed the bridge, and in a year or two a new one was built. Again, in 1741, it was rebuilt. In 1746, however, a new boundary line, under the royal permission, was run by authority of the General Assembly, and from that time Massachusetts refused to pay anything for maintaining a bridge over the Pawtucket. But it was so great a convenience to the village on the east, that its inhabitants, before they became a separate town, and

afterward as a municipality, always assisted in rebuilding the bridge.

The bridge first erected stood a little south of the place where the stone bridge now stands; but afterward the present site was chosen. As has already been mentioned, about two-thirds of the bridge was swept away by the great freshet of 1807; but it was speedily rebuilt. In 1817 it was again replaced, largely at the expense of North Providence. In 1832 the work was done anew, partly at the expense of the town, partly by the aid of private subscriptions. In 1839 the unwelcome necessity came to repair the bridge, and the question was raised, On whom should this perpetual burden fall? Investigation showed that the obligation rested on the State. In 1843 the old bridge was torn down, and a new one built. Only fourteen years passed away, however, before this bridge was found needing great repairs; and the question was forced on the public mind, Is it wise to let ourselves be annoyed every few years by the discomfort and expense of building a new bridge? There was but one answer to this inquiry, and it was resolved to build a stone bridge. To cause as little inconvenience as possible, all preparations possible were made during the fall of that year, and the winter and spring of the next. Independence day in 1858 was honored by a public celebration in Pawtucket, and the old bridge was used for the last time to accommodate the procession. On the 6th of July travel was suspended, and the work of destruction was thenceforth hurried on. Rebuilding quickly followed. As on every previous occasion, the bridge was set a little higher, and the approaches to it on both sides were elevated. Four months of persistent labor built the piers, threw the arches across, and finished the road-bed; and on the 4th of November, 1858, the bridge was opened to travel. The occasion was fitly celebrated by a public procession, a dinner at Manchester Hall, and other tokens of gladness. The celebration was honored by the presence of Gov. Dyer and various other dignitaries of the

State ; and the speeches at the table appositely showed the importance to the public of the completion of so permanent a bridge. For nearly eighteen years it has performed its office, and promises to stand unharmed for a century, unless shaken by an earthquake, or blown up by some explosive.

Beside this bridge, other structures which cross the Blackstone for the accommodation of the inhabitants of Pawtucket, deserve to be briefly mentioned. The first of these was built at the north end of Mill street about half a century ago. The most active promoter of it was Mr. John Kennedy, of Central Falls. He carried round a subscription paper, and obtained funds, chiefly from the citizens of that village, for building a bridge. Report says that the usual expedient, a lottery, was employed to furnish help. The bridge was commenced in 1826, and finished in the following year. The day of its completion was honored by a celebration, and speeches were made and other festivities enjoyed on the bridge itself. This structure stood for several years, though a long time elapsed before Pawtucket assumed any of the burden of supporting it. Meanwhile population had increased in the part of the town near that bridge, and the old structure became insecure. A new bridge was demanded, and, in 1871, an iron one was built at the joint expense of Pawtucket and Smithfield.

The next bridge reared over the Blackstone in this neighborhood was built from what is now Central avenue. Mr. Elijah Ingraham had bought a farm on what has long been known as Pleasant View. It was designed to bring the territory into market for house lots, and the place was most easily approached from the northern part of Mill street. A wooden bridge was therefore thrown across the stream in 1853. The pleasantness of the situation, and the steady increase of population, caused the neighborhood to be rapidly settled, and the old bridge in a few years became unsafe. On September 4th, 1868, therefore, it was voted at a town meeting in Pawtucket that "A sum of money not to exceed six thousand

dollars be appropriated by this town for building one-half of a bridge across the Blackstone river at Pleasant View." On April 7th of the following year a thousand dollars more was appropriated. The other part of the cost for the iron bridge thus constructed was paid by the town of Smithfield.

The growing population demanded more conveniences. The stone bridge was often crowded by the multitude of teams passing from one side of the river to the other. It was desired on both sides of the Blackstone, that a bridge be built opposite Exchange street. North Providence and Pawtucket voted to construct such a bridge, and it was built during the winter of 1871-2, and the early spring of the latter year, and was opened for travel on May 3d, 1872. This is constructed of iron also, and cost \$30,000.

Still another bridge seemed demanded, and, after consolidation, it was resolved on. At a town meeting held on March 1st, 1875, the Town Council were authorized to build a bridge from the foot of Division street across the Pawtucket river, of such materials as they deemed most suitable. They accordingly decided to build of stone, and a massive structure is now building.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The act of the Rhode Island General Assembly, incorporating the "District of Pawtucket," in North Providence, was passed on February 17th, 1801.

The first meeting of the district in compliance with their charter, was held on the first Monday in April, 1801, at the inn of Otis Tiffany. And the following officers were chosen: Moderator, Stephen Jenks; Clerk, Jerathmeel Jenks; Collector, Benjamin Arnold; Treasurer, Otis Tiffany; Assessors, James Mason, Samuel Slater, Jerathmeel Jenks; Presidents of Fire Wards, Nathaniel Croade, Oziel Wilkinson, Stephen Jenks.

The first fire engine purchased by the district was built by Abraham, Isaac and David Wilkinson, and delivered April

25th, 1803. The price paid them was \$353.50. This engine continued to be used by Engine Company No. 1 until December, 1844. At that time a new engine was purchased for the company, of Joel Bates, of Philadelphia.

The organization of a fire department on the east side of the river occurred at a later date. A meeting of persons styled "the proprietors of the engine in the village of Pawtucket, in the town of Seekonk," was held at Eliphalet Slack's inn, on Friday evening, December 11th, 1812. Oliver Starkweather, Esq., was chosen Moderator, and William Allen, Clerk. The names of twenty-one persons were designated for Engine Company No. 2, and the following individuals were chosen officers of the company, to serve until the annual meeting in the following May: Director, Joseph Bucklin; Vice Director, Job Wheaton; Collector, Benjamin Bowen; Messenger, Addington Davenport; Clerk, John French, Jr.

By a record on the books of the town, it seems that on May 31st, 1838, it was voted to appropriate the interest of the surplus revenue deposited with the town, to the amount of \$750, for the purchase of a fire engine.

These were the beginnings of the Fire Department for the two sections of the present town. For over three-score years and ten the first-named district held its annual meetings, and strove to maintain an efficient organization to fight the fiery foe. For sixty years and upward the other district vied with them. New and improved fire engines were from time to time supplied, and the two villages were preserved from any very disastrous conflagrations. An important help in subduing flames has been supplied for years by the force pumps connected with the various mills.

Each village, up to the time of consolidation, maintained its own organization. For some years a part of the department east of the river were paid for their services; but on the western side a volunteer organization was maintained. After the consolidation, the Town Council speedily took steps for reorganizing the department. On the 15th of June, 1874,

an ordinance providing for a paid Fire Department was adopted, but the actual service did not begin till July 13th. As at present arranged, the Fire Department consists of one chief engineer, two assistant engineers, and five companies, containing in all sixty-four men. There are five steamers, and one hook and ladder truck. Five men are permanently employed, and there are seven horses owned by the town, ready for immediate service. The rest of the men answer to stroke of the bell at any time, and are dismissed when the fire is extinguished. There are three engine houses.

To help the efficiency of the department, a fire alarm telegraph has been provided. Connected with it are thirty-five boxes, five bell-strikers, and the necessary battery and machinery to operate the mechanism. This telegraph was built in 1874, and put in operation on November 14th of that year, at an expense to the town of \$12,100. It has seventeen miles of wire, and is placed on 221 poles and about 140 buildings.

And here may be mentioned another public convenience. The lighting of the streets by night is a matter cared for in every well regulated town or city. In the little hamlet on the east of the river, this convenience was regulated on an economical scale years ago. At a town meeting held April 6th, 1832, the following vote was passed: "That the Selectmen provide four lamps, to supply them with oil, to locate them at such places, and keep them lighted at such times as they may think proper." Although it is not known that any corresponding vote was immediately passed in the western hamlet, it is not to be presumed that either the people or the officials would consent to be outdone in so grave a matter. Doubtless, as many as half a dozen lamps were quickly provided. For twenty years, however, or more, since the Gas Company was organized, street lamps have shed their welcome radiance on the more public streets in each village. At present, for the convenience of the consolidated town, 237 gas lanterns, and 156 globe gas lanterns, direct the traveler's

steps by night. The latter are supplied by gas generated in the globes themselves by naphtha.

MILITARY HISTORY.

It is impossible in a mere sketch to give a detail of the military experiences of the inhabitants of these two communities. In fact, it is impossible, for the first century of the existence of these villages, to separate their history from that of the parent town to which each belonged. It was in Rehoboth that the first blood in King Philip's war was shed; twenty-nine of the men of that thinly settled town were supplied for the army, and thirteen of them were in the great fight at Narragansett, in Rhode Island. But how many of them came from the little hamlet of Pawtucket is not now known. Leaping over an interval of nearly a century, however, the reader reaches the era of the Revolution. Among the foremost towns of the Colony of Massachusetts, to counsel resistance to British aggression, was the town of Rehoboth; and the chairman of the town's committee of correspondence was Hon. Ephraim Starkweather, who has already been mentioned. He was a man of education and manly courage, and, when Gov. Hancock was chief magistrate of Massachusetts, and felt his need of private councillors during the gloom of the war, he called to his side, among others, Mr. Starkweather.

The drafts of men from Rehoboth, during the Revolution, for various terms of service, demanded two hundred and six men; and they were promptly supplied. Beside these, there were voluntary enlistments to the number of one hundred and four. How many of these three hundred and ten were from the eastern hamlet of Pawtucket cannot be told; but the influence of Mr. Starkweather was doubtless powerfully felt by his immediate neighbors, and it is safe to assume that Pawtucket furnished her share.

As for the western hamlet, it is known that it was then a

part of North Providence. That town furnished some of the bravest officers of the Revolution. Commodore Esek Hopkins was originally commander-in-chief of the little American navy; and it has been mentioned that Mr. Sylvanus Brown served under him. And it is highly probable that others from Pawtucket were in the naval service. Capt. Stephen Olney, too, of the same town, was a man whose prowess shone conspicuous at Yorktown. No braver act was performed during the Revolution than his, in leading that storming column, under the command of Lafayette and Hamilton, against the British redoubt, and shouting, after he forced his way through the abatis, and leaped over the parapet, while the bayonets of the foe were on the point of piercing him, *Capt. Olney's company,—form here!* Some from Pawtucket were under his command during the war. But the fuller records of the military affairs of Rhode Island during the Revolution were sent to Washington scores of years ago, and were burned in the capitol, when that city was fired by the British during the second war with Great Britain.

But scanty accounts remain of the aid afforded by the inhabitants of these villages during the second contest with Great Britain. At one time in that war the militia of Pawtucket were summoned to assist in throwing up entrenchments to the south of Providence for the protection of that town, and responded to the call. The Free Masons also went down as an organization, and labored on the earthworks. A record is also preserved of a town meeting during that war, held in North Providence, which tells of a vote passed to increase the wages of the men drafted from the town. Such a vote shows that some of our predecessors rendered service in that strife in garrison or on the tented field.

Further search in the office of the Adjutant General of our State, shows that during the war of 1812-15, a draft was made in Rhode Island for five hundred men. They were organized into a battalion of four companies. There is no evidence in the records of that office that they were required

to leave the State, but were probably assigned to garrison duty. Of this number eleven were drafted from North Providence, and their names are as follows: William Tripp, Elisha Bowdish, Marvel Hawkins, Benjamin Martin, Reuben Place, Jacob Stacey, William Randall, Jr., John Pitcher, Jr., Jeremiah Barrows, Minzey Sweet, John Whipple. How many of them were from the village of Pawtucket is not known.

Till within twenty years but few independent companies have existed in Pawtucket. History preserves the fact, that just before the Revolutionary war, a company was chartered in the Colony, bearing the name of the North Providence Rangers. In 1824 a rifle corps was formed in the village of Pawtucket. Its commander was Col. Samuel Jacobs. He was an officer that had seen service in the second war with Great Britain, and manifested a lively interest in the discipline and efficiency of his company. As the illustrious Frenchman, who had come to aid our fathers in the darkest hour of the Revolution, had just landed on our shores to see once more the land for whose freedom he had fought, the company paid him the compliment of calling their organization the Pawtucket Fayette Rifle Corps. Unluckily their uniform was not completed in season to allow their welcoming their distinguished guest, when he passed through the town. The company maintained a somewhat capricious existence for about ten years, and then expired. One of the surviving members of that corps relates that he and some of his comrades were consoled for their disappointment, by witnessing in Providence the demonstrative act of Capt. Stephen Olney, in clasping his old commander in his arms.

The more recent war, wherein our country was engaged from 1861 to 1865, is too vividly remembered by the present generation to require more than a reference to it. How terrible those years were, millions in our land recollect. How well calculated to abate national conceit, millions keenly feel. A few years before that strife began,—in 1857, indeed,—a

military organization was formed in Pawtucket. Its originators little dreamed of the stern draft that was ere long to be made on their patriotism and courage. Formed with a feeling that it might be serviceable to put down any riot or local disorder that might break forth, its members realized not that a demand would be made on their heroism to aid in stifling a gigantic rebellion. But from that little band went forth many a soldier who fell on the battle-field, many an officer that trained others to suffer and to fight for their country.

The Pawtucket Light Guard was formed in 1857, and became the nucleus of several companies that went forth under successive calls from the General Government. In April, 1861, indeed, when Baltimore was in the possession of a disloyal mob, and treason sought to sever the national capital from the loyal north, among the first to go to the aid of the General Government was the Light Guard. Prepared to open the way to Washington, if need were, at the point of the bayonet, that company showed that it had been formed for something more serious than holiday parade. At the first battle of Bull Run, Levi Tower, who had been promoted to the command of a company in the Second Rhode Island Regiment, fell with his face to the foe, one of the earliest martyrs from our State to the cause of freedom and order.* And scores of others from this town yielded up their lives on the battle-field, or languished and died in hospitals during that weary war.

To complete the record of the services of the Pawtucket Light Guard, it may be stated that that company, when starting in April, 1861, was designated as Company E, in the First Rhode Island Regiment. Of the one hundred composing it, more than eighty reëntered the service after the

* The Colonel of that regiment, John S. Slocum, had been till within a short time, an active citizen of Pawtucket; and his mother, and the mother of Major Sullivan Ballou, and the parents of Capt. Tower, were living within less than half a mile of one another on the fatal day when their sons fell on the deadly field.

first three months' campaign, and thirty-seven of them won commissions in regiments from our own or other States. Of the commanders of the Pawtucket Light Guard, three—Olney Arnold, Horace Daniels, and William R. Walker—subsequently became Major Generals in this State.

In the course of the war for the suppression of the rebellion, thirteen companies were raised in the two villages on opposite sides of the river, and many other citizens of the town served in different regiments sent forth from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Beside these, several are known to have enlisted in the navy, and rendered good service on the sea. By the records of the State, it is ascertained that the town of North Providence paid for bounties, \$36,650; and for aiding the families of volunteers, \$81,234. A large share of this, of course, was paid by the western village of Pawtucket. The town of Pawtucket also paid for bounties, \$13,250; and for aid to volunteers' families, \$35,077. A portion of this sum, however, was repaid by the State.

And an important service was rendered during the war by the Home Guard. A local organization was formed with that title, and was commanded by Col. Jacob Dunnell. It kept alive the military spirit, and thus facilitated the raising of new companies as they were called for; and also fostered in the community an active interest in behalf of the families of volunteers.

At the present time the Pawtucket Light Guard suspend their military exercises. There are, however, three organizations that keep up meetings for drill. They bear the following names: the Tower Light Battery; the Pawtucket Horse Guards; and Company B, of 5th Battalion of Infantry.

PAWTUCKET MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

This company was chartered in 1848, but did not begin operations in earnest till 1851. Its first President was Edward S. Wilkinson, Esq. The first Secretary was Capt.

John G. Tower, and the first Treasurer was Jesse S. Tourtellot. The original Directors were Messrs. Alanson Thayer, Stephen Benedict, Gideon L. Spencer, Charles Moies, John H. Weeden, Claudius B. Farnsworth, James C. Starkweather, Gideon C. Smith, Horace Miller, and Alvin Jenks. Capt. Tower acted as Secretary for but a short time. On his resignation, January 13th, 1849, Mr. S. Gano Benedict was chosen in his stead.

A quarter of a century has wrought a great change in the officers. A majority of the above-named persons have passed away from earth, and of the original Directors but a single one retains his place. The present officers are Robert Sherman, President; Isaac Shove, Secretary; and H. N. Ingraham, Treasurer. The present Directors are Messrs. Charles Moies, Stephen P. Fisk, Ira D. Ellis, George L. Walker, L. B. Darling, J. E. Dispeau, George A. Mumford, W. W. Blodgett, Thomas Moies, and A. A. Mann.

The company has enjoyed much prosperity during the twenty-five years for which it has been in active operation. Its losses have been comparatively small, and the public have extended to it full confidence. A few figures will show its present condition. Its present risks are about ten millions of dollars. Its average losses for a few years have been from ten to twelve thousand dollars a year. Its cash income (premiums) is about twenty-nine thousand dollars per year. Its cash assets are a hundred thousand dollars; its total capital is about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Its office is on the corner of Main and Mill streets.

FEMALE BENEFICENT SOCIETY.

Among the various philanthropic organizations of the town, one of the oldest is the Female Beneficent Society. Its very name indicates the object for which it was established. To aid the poor and distressed up to the full measure of its resources, is the aim which its members propose. It was

organized in the year 1809. The first meeting was held on the 28th of April. Its officers were as follows: President, Mrs. Lydia Croade; Treasurer, Mrs. Hannah Slater; Secretary, Mrs. Sarah Starkweather. The Directresses were Mrs. Sarah Slack, Mrs. Rachel Tyler, Mrs. Lydia Wilkinson, Mrs. Nancy Tiffany, Mrs. Mary Kennedy, Mrs. M. Peck. The Collectors were Mrs. Phebe Manchester, Mrs. Betsey May, Mrs. Lydia Kennedy, Mrs. Amelia Weston, Mrs. Eliza Davenport.

"The poor ye have always with you," said the Son of God; and for more than three-score years this institution has striven to remind the citizens of the place of those other words of the Lord—"It is happier to give than to receive." It is to be hoped that hundreds in years to come will learn the truth of this saying, as scores have learned it in years that have passed. The present officers of this society are the following: President, Mrs. S. H. Vinton; Secretary, Miss Carrie Mumford; Treasurer, Mrs. William Havens; Directors, Mrs. William Havens, Mrs. George Bullen, Mrs. John H. Weeden, Mrs. Edwin Clapp, Mrs. John B. Read; Collector on east side, Miss Nellie Blodgett; Collector on west side, Mrs. John Clarner.

BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS.

Within thirty or forty years several substantial blocks of buildings have been reared in this place. Three brick blocks were reared, indeed, more than half a century ago. The Lefavour block, so called, and the Hotel block were erected in 1812 or 1813, and the Ellis block about 1820; but the severe business revulsion in 1829 checked any further enterprises of the kind for years. The Manchester block was built, however, in 1848. The A. M. Read block was built in 1849, and the John B. Read block in 1850. The Almy block was reared in 1854.

During the past dozen years, however, the more tasty and substantial blocks in the town for business purposes have

been reared. The first was the Dexter block, on Main street. The late Capt. N. G. B. Dexter began to build this edifice a year before his death, and it was scarcely finished at the time of his decease in April, 1866.* About seven years afterward, the heirs of the Miller estate tore down the dilapidated wooden building on the corner of Main and Mill streets, and erected the noble edifice which adorns the spot. The work was fitly supplemented by the fixing in the front of an illuminated clock. This was done by subscription, under the exertions of Capt. H. F. Jenks. Capt. Jenks undertook the entire charge of obtaining and putting up the clock. After ascertaining the probable expense, he performed the thankless task of obtaining subscriptions from friends in the town, and then visited New York, Boston, and other cities, to find out the best mode of making and arranging the clock and dial. Servilely following no model, but taxing his own skill and taste, he has secured for his native town an illuminated clock unsurpassed by any in this part of our land. The clock itself was manufactured by G. M. Stevens & Co., of Boston, and will run eight days without winding. An ingenious contrivance provides for shutting off the lights at any hour desired. The dial is of French plate glass, four feet in diameter, and seven-sixteenths of an inch in thickness. The letters

* This building was reared on a lot termed the Croade estate. That lot and the adjoining lot to the east belonged to Nathaniel Croade. At the time of his decease he was living in the house now occupied by Dr. Wheaton. Mr. Croade has the reputation of being the first merchant in the place who kept an exclusively dry goods store; though the term dry goods then included boots, shoes, and hats. He had been prospered in business, and, after his decease, his wife caused the building that he had used as a shop to be removed, and laid out the land for a flower garden. Either this was the first in the place, or it was laid out more elaborately than had been customary, and utilitarianism indignantly asked, Why this waste? Many seem to have queried, indeed, whether land that could have borne potatoes, or have been occupied by a drinking saloon, ought to be appropriated to flowers. But Mrs. Croade doubtless thought that, since God had clothed the lilies with a beauty surpassing even that of Solomon's court, He would pardon one of His children for delighting in flowers. Enough that in a world like ours, where the valleys are clothed with grain, there are objects that simply minister to the love of the beautiful, and regale the nostrils with their fragrance. She therefore preserved her flower-bed.

or numerals are of a peculiar pattern, and differ from anything in this region. Graceful in outline, yet bold in form, they are gilt on a black ground, and exhibit the former color by day, the latter by night. The clock was lighted for the first time on the closing evening of the year 1873, and promises to tell, for years to come, to the gazer by day or by night, the hour which has arrived.

In 1874 another block was built on the same street. It was reared by G. L. Spencer, and bears the name of Spencer block. It fitly adjoins the elegant Miller block. In the same year Littlefield Brothers made a contract with French, Mackenzie & Co., to have a block reared on the west side of Mill street. In extent, solidity, and beauty, it is an ornament to the street, and properly chronicles the enterprise of its owners. It was ready for occupation in January, 1875.

During 1874, Dexter Brothers were forwarding an improvement on their lot at the corner of East avenue. That lot was appropriated in 1822 to the erection of a building called Union block. The parties at whose expense it was reared were Mr. Slater, Major Ebenezer Tyler, and David Wilkinson. Till 1844 it was used for stores and offices, but was at that time bought by Mr. Enoch Adams, and converted into a cotton mill. In 1851 it was purchased by Capt. Dexter, and used for the same purpose by him and his sons. After his decease, Dexter Brothers continued to run the mill, till finally they resolved to concentrate their business in one mill, and therefore removed the machinery to the mill on the east side of the river. Their design was to demolish the old mill, and rear in its place an edifice that should be an ornament to the town, and that should supply important public needs. They succeeded in both these ends. Although the completion of the building was delayed by unforeseen hindrances, the spacious rooms of the First National Bank were ready on the 5th of July, 1875. A festive gathering of the stockholders and friends of that institution was held there on the afternoon of July 3d. Subsequently the Slater

National Bank took up their quarters in the lower story of the building; and in the following fall the post office was removed to its rooms.

GROWTH OF SEEKONK PLAINS.

As showing the changes which a few years have wrought, a slight reference to the extensive tract of land in the eastern part of the town may be allowed. It is well known that this is but a continuation of a large prairie that has long been styled Seekonk Plains. The origin of that name has already been told. For purposes of cultivation the region has never been much prized. For a century or more it was used as a vast sheep pasture. The inhabitants of Seekonk who kept sheep would shear them in the spring, mark them, and then let them run to shift for themselves during the rest of the season.

A resident upon the western section of that plain, however, mentions his experience. He arrived here just before 1840, and was much surprised to find so extensive an unoccupied tract, in the immediate neighborhood of so thriving a town. Buying a piece of land in the vicinity of the present town farm, he has found that skillful labor makes even such land profitable. But the progress of settlement is what he would fain see chronicled. In 1839, in all that part of the plain lying in Pawtucket, and reaching into Seekonk, were only three houses. There was no road across the plain south of the Taunton or Lebanon road. The new resident, who was bent on testing the capabilities of the soil, offered to give land to make what is now known as Brook street a thoroughfare sixty feet wide; but the proposition was rejected on the ground that thirty feet was wide enough. Now surveyors are trying to straighten and broaden that road, and many are lamenting the want of forecast which threw away the opportunity of making a broad highway, from the impression that it could never be needed.

Time has rolled on, however; Pawtucket has continued willfully to grow; her citizens are pushing out into the outskirts, and a hundred houses are now on that despised plain. A hundred more lots are platted, and likely to be occupied when business revives. The solitude has been invaded by a railroad, too. The branch track of the Providence and Worcester Railroad, which seeks deep water for convenience in obtaining coal and other heavy freight, runs through the prairie, and touches the head of the bay just below Providence.

HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS PARISHES.

The history of any town or nation is manifestly defective, if no account is given of its religious organizations. Acute and thoughtful men recognize the power of religious convictions and institutions on both public and private weal. The opinions of two eminent writers may appropriately be quoted to justify the details hereafter to be given. Says Muller:

“To my mind the great epochs in the world’s history are marked not by the foundation or the destruction of empires, by the migrations of races, or by French revolutions. All this is outward history, made up of events that seem gigantic and overpowering to those only who cannot see beyond or beneath. The real history of man is the history of religion,—the wonderful ways by which the different families of the human race advanced towards a truer knowledge and a deeper love of God. This is the foundation that underlies all profane history; it is the light, the soul, and life of history, and without it all history would indeed be profane.”

And De Tocqueville writes in a similar strain:

“When the religion of a people is destroyed,” says he, “doubt gets hold of the higher powers of the intellect, and half paralyzes all the others. Every man accustoms himself to have only confused and changing notions on the subjects most interesting to his fellow-creatures and himself.” “Such a condition,” he continues, “cannot but enervate the soul,

relax the springs of the will, and prepare a people for servitude." "I am inclined to think that, if faith be wanting in man, he must be subject; and if he be free, he must believe."

The history of Pawtucket, in one of its chief branches, is but a history of the persistent application of the energies of the soul to the obtaining of a mastery over some of the hidden powers of nature. Feeble faith, languid thought, faltering determination, had never made the inventions that have given Pawtucket fame, or pushed to success the enterprises which have won for her thrift. None but God can know how largely her material prosperity has sprung from the spiritual qualities that were fostered in her fanes, or fed by the prayers of her closets. And her richest prosperity had but hastened her ruin, had not Christian institutions and instrumentalities riveted on her children's minds the fact that man is nobler than any fruit of human skill; and that a sanctified soul is of more value than the most delicate fabric of the loom, or the richest product of the die.

It was more than a century, however, before any parish was organized in Pawtucket. During the century for which the western village remained a part of Providence, many of her inhabitants were connected with the church in that town. On the eastern side of the river, some of the citizens in that hamlet were members of the church in Rehoboth. Some of the Friends, too, were accustomed, on the first day, to go to Smithfield or to Providence to muse and worship with their brethren. It is not to be doubted, however, that, as in the infancy of Christianity itself, believers were wont to meet for praise and prayer in private houses. But the time came when the inhabitants became aware of the importance of a fane for worship. Sensuous as man is, he needs something to speak to the eye itself of the presence of God. He feels that even though the heaven of heavens cannot contain Jehovah, much less any temple which human hands rear, it is yet profitable to have some place that can be deemed a special sanctuary for the God of Jacob. The temple, though

ever so humble, if consecrated by prayer and dedicated to worship, is yet a reminder to the passer-by that God has an abode among men. The spire pointing heavenward directs faith upward, and the Sabbath bell sounds its call to the soul to draw nigh God. And it is a grave calamity for a community to be destitute of a temple to which men can easily repair. The feeble, the infirm, cannot, the listless will not, visit a sanctuary which is too remote from their dwellings.

CATHOLIC BAPTIST SOCIETY.

Convictions like these spurred many of the inhabitants of the two hamlets of Pawtucket, near the close of the last century, to take steps for building a meeting house in this place. Hence the following record appears of a meeting held in the western village :

“At a meeting of the principal Inhabitants of Pawtucket for the purpose of meditating on Ways and means for building a Meeting-House, holden on the 26th Day of November, 1792, at the dwelling house of Samuel Healey, Capt. Stephen Jenks is chosen Moderator, and Esek Esten chosen Clerk.

“It is voted that Nathaniel Croade, Esek Esten, and Jerahmeel Jenks, be and are hereby appointed to inquire and find out where the most suitable Lot of land can be obtained, with ways and avenues thereunto, to build a Meeting House on, with the price thereof, and also to procure a Subscription paper in the most proper form for the purpose ; and make Report to our next meeting.”

The meeting adjourned to the 10th of December, and on that day convened at the same place. According to vote, the committee appointed at the previous meeting made their report. After mentioning that they had taken a general view of the village, they recommend, on the score of convenience and capability of ornament, a lot on Mr. Samuel Healey's land, adjoining Mr. Sweetland's house lot, “as the most eligible.” It appears, too, that both Mr. Healey and Mr. Sweetland will give a highway to said lot. Each offers to

give ten feet of his land, thus making a highway of twenty feet. "We have bounded out said lot nine rods square," say the committee, "and the price is 50 dollars."

Perhaps it can be profitably mentioned that, at the time named, the only way of reaching the site of the First Baptist meeting house was by Hedge lane. That lane started from Main street, where Broad street now enters it, and run in a winding course to where the Methodist house of worship now stands. Indeed, it was what afterward became North Union street. From near the Methodist meeting house a lane run in the direction of the present High street to the cemetery on Read street, and the contemplated house of worship. It was a great convenience, therefore, if the temple was to be reared there, to have a direct highway from Main street. That highway was accordingly laid out in due time, and long known as Baptist lane. Its later designation is Meeting street.

According to the notice, the assembly had gathered to *meditate*, but this report proved a signal to wrangle. The honest record says: "Upon the above report being read, there arose a dispute about the price of said lot." There is no telling to what that dispute would have led, but for an opportune circumstance. A New England village oft contains what Milton calls a "fierce democratic," and they wax vehement over anything that savors of extortion. Good Nicholas Brown happened to be present, however, and effectually quenched the flame of indignant eloquence by offering to pay for the lot himself. The meeting, therefore, proceeded to meditate further, and the committee reported that they had drawn up a subscription paper; and Mr. Samuel Healey and Mr. Jerahmeel Jenks were chosen a committee to procure subscriptions, receive the money subscribed, and build the meeting house. As a matter of interest, it may be worth while to copy the heading of the subscription paper. It was in substance as follows:

"Whereas Pawtucket is now become a large, compact village, containing upwards of fifty families within a quarter of a mile from the centre, not having any Meeting House therein, nor any within about three miles therefrom; but has within that distance convenient highways from more than twelve directions centring thereto; hence it is not only very convenient for said village and the adjacent Neighborhoods, but of vast importance that a commodious Meeting house should be erected therein: 'For whosoever (saith Paul) shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a Preacher?' and how shall they accommodate a Preacher without a Meeting House?

"Wherefore we the subscribers do hereby agree with and mutually promise each other, to contribute the several sums of money or other articles affixed to our respective names, within a reasonable time, for the laudable purpose of purchasing a Lot and building a meeting house thereon next summer:

- "Provided that the Amount shall equal or exceed eight hundred dollars on or before the first day of February next.

"And whereas the good people of Pawtucket were not educated by one Priest, and hence have imbibed, and adhere to a variety of Religious tenets; and whereas said House will be sufficient to receive and accommodate them all; and whereas also a fair Discussion upon both sides of every question is as necessary in Religion as in Politics in the Search after Truth;

"It is therefore agreed and hereby Declared that said Meeting House shall be founded upon the most Liberal Establishment, to the end that every Sect and Denomination of Christians, living in or near said Pawtucket, may have, hold, use, occupy and possess, said House by Rotation or otherwise to suit the time and occasion, for the purpose of worshipping God agreeable to the Dictates of their own consciences. Nevertheless, it is hereby agreed that the Baptist Society, who are the most numerous and benevolent in their Contributions, shall have the exclusive Right and pre-eminence in and to said House, upon every Sunday forever, if they have occasion for the same."

The amount proposed to be raised was subscribed, and the committee previously appointed were instructed to build a meeting house with the following dimensions: 45 by 36 feet, and 22 feet posts, "as soon as they shall have procured a Deed of the Lot, and the proposed road thereto through the said Healey and Sweetland's Land, as before reported."

That by the phrase *principal inhabitants of Pawtucket* the people on both sides of the river were meant, is manifest from the fact that an adjourned meeting was held on the 4th of March, 1793, at Col. Eliphalet Slack's, in Rehoboth. This was, of course, at his tavern on Main street. And the three persons appointed at that time as trustees to take and hold the deed of the meeting house lot were Daniel Toler, Col. Eliphalet Slack, and Stephen Jenks, Jr.

In the records of the society the following memorandum occurs:

"It appears that about this time the idea of a charter of Incorporation had obtained, and that for the purpose of placing the intended Plan of a Meeting House, on a yet more permanent and unquestionable basis; for in the short time of only 3 days, to wit, from this 4th to the 7th of March, a very satisfactory form of a Charter was matured up, and laid before the next meeting on the said 7th of March."

An act of incorporation was accordingly petitioned for, and the preamble and first section of it are subjoined because they give a list of the chief actors in the matter at that time. It may be a gratification to their successors now on the stage, indeed, to know who were prominent in affairs more than four score years ago:

"The Governor and Company of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; To all to whom these Presents shall come,—Greeting:

"Whereas sundry persons of the village called Pawtucket, in North Providence, in the County of Providence, and others, have represented to us that they have subscribed toward building a Meeting House in said Pawtucket for the worship of Almighty God,

which said House is on the first Days of the week forever hereafter, to be and remain for the Baptist Denomination of Christians, if they have an occasion for the same, and on other times and occasions indifferently for the use of any or all denominations of Christians, and to be opened and used accordingly, at the Request of any four of the reputable Householders of the said village of Pawtucket; and have petitioned the General Assembly to grant Them a Charter of Incorporation with the Privileges and Powers hereafter mentioned;

“Now therefore know ye that we the Governor and Company, Do for ourselves and Successors Enact, grant, ordain, constitute and declare that Samuel Healey, Jerahmeel Jenks, Oliver Bucklin, Nathaniel Croade, Benjamin Jencks, James Mason, James Durfee, James Weeden, Nathaniel Walker, Jun'r, David Jenks, Thomas Spears, Stephen Jenks, Jun'r, Levi Jenks, Moses Jenks, John Pitcher, Moses Baker, Daniel Toler, Stephen Jenks, George Jenks, Benjamin Kingsley, John Bucklin, S. Bowers, Jun'r, Comfort Jenks, Samuel Benchley, William Bagley, Jun'r, Ezra Barrows, Josiah Armington, D. Walker, Ezekiel Carpenter, Samuel Jenks, George Nicholas, Samuel Slack, O. Carpenter, Samuel Slater, Jesse Salisbury, Jesse Bushee, Ephraim Jenks, Luther Hawkins, Peter Bicknel, Esek Jenks, Ebenezer Tyler, Eleazer Jenks, George Benson, John Brown, Nicholas Brown, Thomas P. Ives, and Aretas Sweetland, or such and so many of them as shall convene on the second Wednesday of May, A. D., 1793, at the house of Samuel Healey, in North Providence, on the business of their Charter, and their successors, shall be forever hereafter one Body corporate and politic in Fact, and remain with perpetual succession, to be known in the Law by the name of the Catholic Baptist Society at Pawtucket in North Providence; and the said Catholic Society is hereby empowered to take, receive and hold all and any voluntary subscriptions, contributions, legacies and donations of any sum or sums of money, or of any Real and Personal Estate,” etc.

The officers of this society for some years seem to have been Stephen Jenks, Moderator, Jerahmeel Jenks, Treasurer, and Stephen Jenks, Jr., Clerk. Of course, not all the persons named in the act of incorporation were residents of

Pawtucket. Nicholas Brown and probably the Thomas P. Ives named were citizens of Providence. And there were some prominent citizens on both sides of the river, whose names do not appear in the charter. The Friends stood aloof from the enterprise; for Oziel Wilkinson, Timothy Greene, and Benjamin Arnold, were then living on Quaker lane. And on the eastern side of the river were the well-known residents, Ephraim Starkweather and Col. Eliphalet Slack, the latter of whom sympathized with the undertaking.

But perhaps space enough has been given to this matter. Suffice it to say that the sacred edifice was, after many delays, finally finished. In a few years Pawtucket rejoiced in the possession of a meeting house set apart for the worship of Almighty God. The site whereon that humble structure was reared, has continued for scores of years to be occupied by a Baptist temple. As the church has grown in numbers, and the congregation increased, the old edifice outgrown has been made to give place to a more commodious and imposing meeting house.

In the closing year of the last century a committee was authorized to agree with Rev. Joshua Bradley to supply the pulpit for six months. After him, Rev. Mr. Messer and others supplied, till finally, in September, 1804, David Benedict, then a youth just from college, came to Pawtucket, and began to preach. Like Paul, perhaps, he began in weakness and much trembling, but his youthful labors were but the prelude to more than a score of years of energetic toil. When he began his labors, no formal Baptist church existed in Pawtucket. It seems, however, that ever since 1775 members of the ancient church in Providence had been living in Pawtucket, but retaining their membership in Providence. But it is probable that, long before that time, inhabitants of Pawtucket were enrolled in the old church in Providence. Elder Ebenezer Jenks, son of the founder of Pawtucket, who was born in 1669, was ordained fifty years afterward pastor of the church in Providence, and held the office till

his death, in 1726, a period of seven years. His personal interest in Pawtucket, and his acquaintance with the inhabitants here, would be likely to secure some members for the parent church.

Mr. Benedict sees such an increase of religious interest here, after laboring for months, that he was encouraged to organize a church. In August, 1805, thirty-nine persons united in church relation. In the following year, on October 16th, Mr. Benedict was ordained. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. Dr. Gano, of Providence. And for years Rev. Mr. Benedict was the sole pastor in Pawtucket. In November, 1828, however, he tendered his resignation, to take effect in six months. His actual service therefore lasted for nearly a quarter of a century. After him came Rev. Mr. Philleo, who accepted the pastoral charge in a few months, and remained with the parish about three years. In 1834 Rev. John Blain succeeded, and remained for but a single year. Perhaps it was not expected that his engagement would be permanent. He was succeeded by Rev. Silas Spaulding. For about five years he remained in charge of the church, and then withdrew. His successor was Rev. S. S. Bradford. During his ministry about forty members of his church took letters for the purpose of being organized into the Central Falls Baptist Church. This church was publicly recognized in October, 1844. Mr. Bradford was a man of varied scholarship and earnest devotion, but, from slender health, he withdrew from the ministry, and engaged in secular affairs. For two years after his withdrawal the parish was without a pastor, but, at the expiration of that period, called Rev. Edward Savage. He, too, brought many desirable gifts and attainments, but came broken in health, and was compelled to succumb to his arduous labors.

Another interval of several months, and then Rev. Joseph Banvard was invited to this field. He came in 1857, and remained till 1861. Mr. Banvard was a man of great energy and versatility of talent, and, during the period of his resi-

dence here, there was a season of wide-spread religious interest. His ministry was therefore signalized by great activity and by numerous accessions to the church. After Mr. Banvard's removal from Pawtucket, a year elapsed before a successor was obtained. Rev. Charles E. Smith proved to be the eighth pastor, and was ordained on the 13th of August, 1863. After a ministry of a little over two years he resigned. In due time he was succeeded by Rev. George Bullen, who has been laboring with the parish for eight years. Ninth as he is in order among the pastors, it is hoped that it may be for the mutual prosperity of pastor and people, that his term of office be as protracted as that of the first pastor. It may be remarked, indeed, with respect to the latter, that he lived to a great old age. In December, 1874, all who had long been citizens of Pawtucket heard with deep emotion that Dr. Benedict had passed away. Like a shock of grain, fully ripe, at the advanced age of ninety-five he journeyed to that city whose Maker and Builder is God. But, like Abel of old, though dead, he yet speaketh.

It can be added to this account, that, while this church have felt for years an interest in the general cause of missions, they have realized that a special call for proselytism existed almost at their doors. The rapid growth of Pawtucket toward the west opened a field for effort in what is called Fairmount. A piece of land was therefore bought for a chapel, a Sunday school was organized, and other meetings are held. And the movement gives signs of promise.

It may also be said, that the society, in June, 1841, received authority from the General Assembly of this State, to change their name from the Catholic Baptist Society to the First Baptist Society.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

For several years after the establishment of the Catholic Baptist Society, it remained the sole religious organization in Pawtucket. In the spring of 1814, however, Episcopalian services began to be held here. Mr. John B. Braid, who had

removed hither from Massachusetts, and Mr. William Holmes, from Dublin, Ireland, invited Rev. Mr. Crocker, of St. John's Church, Providence, to hold an evening service in Pawtucket. After that first service other meetings were held on Sabbath evenings during the warmer months, but not till the following spring were regular services established. Rev. J. L. Blake began to preach in June. As usual in such movements, the congregation was small in the outset, but gradually increased from twenty to over a hundred. Trusting in the help of God, therefore, the worshipers persevered, and on December 22d, 1815, a parish was organized, and the needful parish officers were chosen. The sons of Oziel Wilkinson gave the lot on which a "house for the worship of God was to be built." The names of most of those sons appear, indeed, on the records of the Catholic Baptist Society as taking an interest there in religious institutions. The lot thus given is the spacious one now occupied by St. Paul's Church, but the edifice itself was not completed till nearly two years afterward.

During a part of the ministry, therefore, of Rev. Mr. Blake, the religious services of the parish were held at different places. The Red School House, the Academy, and the Brick School House on the east side of the river, were all used as places of worship. In 1817, however, St. Paul's Church was completed, and on October 17th was consecrated to the worship of God by the rites of the denomination whose members were now to make this their sanctuary. The Right Rev. Bishop Griswold conducted the service, aided by three other clergymen. In the spring of the following year the regular services were begun in this new temple, and Mr. Blake remained rector of the church for two years longer. In 1820, however, he resigned his charge, and was succeeded by one whose name was to become a household one in Pawtucket. In October of that year Rev. George Taft assumed the pastoral charge of St. Paul's Church. For the long period of forty-four years Dr. Taft remained the sole rector

of that parish. Though warmly attached to the rites and usages of his own denomination, he was a man of singular catholicity of spirit; and, while prompt to labor in every enterprise that promised to strengthen his brethren, he proved himself a son of consolation in hundreds of households outside of his own sect. But the weight of increasing years told on his frame, and induced his flock to seek a shepherd who should divide with him the labor.

In August, 1864, therefore, Rev. James D'Wolf Perry became associate rector. In less than two years, however, he removed to Germantown, Pa., and was succeeded in July of the following year by Rev. E. H. Randall. Not many years elapsed after this, however, before the long-tried pastor was summoned hence. Forty-five years of continuous service in one parish and community had let him demonstrate that "to live is Christ;" on the 11th of December, 1869, he learned that "to die is gain." The Christians of some of the earlier centuries were wont to speak of the day of their associates' death as their birthday. In the seventy-ninth year of his age Dr. Taft was born into a holier realm, and left earth to enter Paradise. Death to him was but translation. The associate rector soon withdrew to another field of labor; and Rev. E. H. Porter assumed the sole charge. No kinder wish can be expressed than that he be blessed with a pastorate as long and as useful as was that of his aged predecessor.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

On the very year which witnessed the incorporation and organization of the town of Pawtucket, Mass., a Congregational Society was organized in that town. A charter was obtained from the Legislature of Massachusetts, and on the 3d day of March the members of that society, and such as wished to associate themselves therewith, met for organization at the house of Elijah Ingraham. That meeting proved effective in results, and, ten days afterward, the new society passed the following vote:

“That this society agree to buy the lot of land owned by the Hon. Oliver Starkweather at the junction of the turnpike and *old road*, for fifteen hundred dollars, for which sum he has agreed to convey it to the society.”

The society wrought with energy, and, having secured the services of Mr. Clark Sayles to rear the house of worship, were gladdened by seeing their temple ready for dedication early the next year. It was consecrated to the service of the Living God on February 12th, 1829. On that occasion the sermon was preached by Rev. Samuel Green, of Boston. In the interval between the resolve to build, and the completion of a house of prayer, one male and eight females brought letters of credit from the church in East Attleboro, and proceeded to organize a church. And as both a meeting house was reared, and a church organized, the parish was ready for a pastor. The same promptitude that had marked the other actions was manifest in this. On April 17th, Rev. Asa T. Hopkins was ordained as the first pastor. He is reported to have been richly endowed with many of the gifts sought in a pastor, and labored with apparent success for three years. The church had grown in numbers meanwhile, but he felt constrained to resign. His successor was Rev. Barnabas Phinney. Installed as pastor in January, 1833, he withdrew from the pastorate in January, 1836. The third pastor was Rev. Constantine Blodgett. Invited in the month of June, 1836, to assume the pastoral charge, he was installed to the sacred office on the 28th of the following month. On taking charge of the parish Dr. Blodgett found the original nine members of the church still living, and, associated with them, were nearly a hundred and twenty others. And they were ready to assist their new pastor in Christian work. God had put it into the hearts of some of the members of the parish to make pecuniary donations, one of which deserves special mention from the end to which it was appropriated. Col. Eliphalet Slack has been mentioned more than once. In religion he showed much catholicity of spirit. It has been

stated that he was one of the earliest trustees of the Catholic Baptist Society. Subsequently he aided the Episcopalian parish in their earlier struggles. At a later period he acted with the Congregationalists, and, on his decease, left the parish the sum of two thousand dollars, which was spent for the purchase of the house wherein Dr. Blodgett has long resided.

For several years the new pastor labored energetically, not merely in Pawtucket, but in the adjoining village of Central Falls; and the fruits of his labor in the latter field became manifest in 1845, by the resolve to establish a Congregational Church there. About forty members were dismissed from the parent church to plant a new vine. With energetic labor, however, on the part of both pastor and people, the places of the many families that had thus left the old temple, were gradually filled, and more room was demanded. In 1854, therefore, the house was enlarged by an addition of twenty-four pews. For ten years the parish was permitted to enjoy their enlarged temple, but, on November 17th, 1864, a burning house in the neighborhood flung its sparks against the spire, and in a few hours the sacred edifice was but a heap of ashes.

Cast down, but not destroyed, the parish sought temporary accommodation in the Masonic Temple on Mill street, and, in due time, began the erection of a new meeting house on the site of their former edifice. On July 14th, 1868, however, they were permitted to begin worship in the finished lecture room of the new temple, and commenced by dedicating that room to God. On February 27th, 1868, the entire edifice was formally consecrated to the Most High. The sermon was preached on that occasion by the pastor, and the dedicatory prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Thayer, of Newport.

The close of June, 1871, completed thirty-five years of continuous pastoral labor on the part of Dr. Blodgett; and on the 1st of July he resigned the charge of his parish. By vote of his people he continued his pastoral relation under

the designation of *Retired Pastor*. And now, having past the limit of three-score years and ten, he "dwells among his own people," living in the house which has sheltered himself and his household for so many years. It is the wish of his parish that he continue to dwell there so long as God shall spare his life. He has tested the prophet's saying: "They that wait on Jehovah shall renew their strength; . . . they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint;" and can testify that "no good thing will God withhold from them that walk uprightly." Honored in the community for two score years of guileless living and consecrated labor, he is yet a tower of strength. May he enjoy a green old age!

Rev. J. J. Woolley succeeded to the active pastoral charge forthwith, and has therefore performed five years' energetic service. May he reach the years of his predecessor!

THE METHODIST PARISH.

The first movements toward establishing a parish of the Methodist denomination seem to have been made by pastors resident in Providence. From 1813 to 1822 those clergymen were accustomed to visit Pawtucket, and preach to such as would gather to listen. From 1822 to 1827 Pawtucket was in the Mansfield Circuit, and shared in the labors of its preachers. In the year last named Pawtucket was made a separate preaching station, under the charge of Rev. O. Robbins. He preached in the Red School House, and that building had become literally old. On a rainy day the water poured through the roof to such a degree, that the women, in particular, were glad to open their umbrellas.

In 1828 Israel Washburn preached here, and was followed by Rev. James Porter. Those were days of poverty for the since thriving sect. Mr. Porter, in detailing his experiences, writes: "I spent every other week, paying for board just all I received, which was \$1.50 or \$1.75 per week."

In 1830 a meeting house was erected near where the Methodist temple now stands. In 1832 Rev. Francis Dane was the preacher; after him came Rev. H. Cummings, Rev. Reuben Bowen, and Rev. Samuel Beadle. The latter was relieved of his charge in 1840, by reason of bereavement and failing health. And a record stands on the books of the Methodist Church to this effect: "It may be well to record here that the action of other denominations with regard to our church has been generally friendly."

For a while the pastorate was vacant, though class meetings were kept up. Near the close of 1840, Rev. W. H. Woodbury became the preacher, and was succeeded after a time by Rev. R. M. Hatfield. This gentleman found the church few in number, the edifice dilapidated, and affairs discouraging; but the talents wherewith God had endowed him found ample scope here, and his toils were blessed. Larger numbers waited on his ministry, a new house of worship was reared, and more and more souls were added to the church. There is scarce room, however, to mention more than the names of his successors. Rev. Mr. Gavitt, Rev. Jonathan Cady, Rev. Isaac Bonney, Rev. H. Baylies, Rev. Mr. Gifford, and Rev. William Cone, were pastors during the next ten or dozen years. Rev. Mr. Bonney had so patriarchal an air, that the community at large called him "Father Bonney;" and the church records eulogize Mr. Cone as a very successful laborer.

In 1852 and 1853 Rev. Henry H. Smith was pastor, and then Rev. James Dean, as local preacher, and Rev. William Cone, as preacher at large, officiated. Following them was Rev. James Mather, and then in 1857 Rev. Mr. Lovejoy; and, in the following two years, Rev. S. F. Upham. During Mr. Upham's pastorate the house of worship was enlarged at an expense of \$7000. In 1860 Rev. S. Dean officiated, and was followed the next year by Rev. A. McKeown. During the years 1862 and 1863 Rev. John D. King was the pastor, and gave place for the next two years to Rev. D. H. Ela. Rev. J. D. Butler succeeded, and held the pastorate for two years,

To him succeeded Rev. M. J. Talbot, and, during his ministry, steps were taken for organizing a distinct parish at Central Falls. His year of service was signalized also by the building of a parsonage on Dexter street at an expense of \$5000.

Dr. Talbot having received the appointment of Presiding Elder of New Bedford District, gave place to Rev. E. D. Hall. During his ministry a new church was organized in the more western part of the town, and a meeting house was finally reared near the Mineral Spring Cemetery. That church is called the Thomson Methodist Church, in honor of Bishop Thomson. At the close of Mr. Hall's second year, he took charge of both the Embury Church, at Central Falls, and the Thomson Church. In 1871 Rev. S. L. Gracey took the charge of the parent church on High street, and labored with his people for two years. In 1873 he was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Willett, who resided here for three years. His successor, who has but just come to Pawtucket, is Rev. Mr. Jones. Meantime, since the removal of Rev. Mr. Hall from Pawtucket, the Thomson Church has been supplied by Revs. J. C. Gowan and Robert Clark.

THE UNIVERSALIST PARISH.

As in the case of all the other parishes named, much preliminary work was done in Pawtucket before a parish of Universalists was organized. Rev. David Pickering, Rev. Hosea Ballou, Rev. Thomas Whittemore, and others, preached from time to time in either the old Red School House, or the Catholic Baptist meeting house. But in 1827 the first Universalist Society was incorporated by the name of the First Universalist Society in North Providence. In due time they reared a spacious meeting house on High street, on the site now occupied by the High School building. Rev. Mr. Frieze officiated for a year or two as pastor, but the severe commercial reverses of 1829 so crippled many of the members, that they seemed to lose both heart and hope. And the removal

of many of the parishioners from town sealed its ruin. The house of worship passed into other hands, and the society became extinct.

For years no attempt was made to form a new parish ; but, where a faith is dear to any heart, trial will rather strengthen than extinguish it. The time came at last, when those who had seen their first temple sacrificed, resolved to make another attempt to secure a religious home. A new organization was formed, and meetings were held in what was called "Free Hall," at the junction of what are now Pleasant street and East avenue. Rev. John N. Parker supplied the new parish. Their meetings began to be held in the winter of 1840-41. In May of the latter year the erection of a house of worship was commenced on Exchange street. It was completed the next spring, and dedicated to the Invisible God. Meanwhile a society had been incorporated under the name of the Mill Street Universalist Society. Mr. Parker remained as pastor of the parish till 1844, and was succeeded by Rev. J. S. Barry, who held the pastoral office for but a single year. In 1845 Rev. Calvin Damon was called to the charge of the parish, and remained till July, 1852. Mr. Damon's health became impaired before he left Pawtucket, but his ministry is recollected by many of his parish as marked by industry, devotion, and consistency. He was followed after a few months by Rev. A. R. Abbott, who held the pastoral office about two years. Mr. Abbott bore a spotless reputation, and wielded, while here, a beneficent influence. Shortly after his resignation, Rev. J. H. Campbell became pastor, and remained in charge of the parish till near the close of 1856.

In 1857 Rev. Massena Goodrich assumed the pastoral charge in the month of April. The severe financial embarrassments that quickly followed, delayed some movements that were contemplated ; but the following year brought a season of spiritual quickening to almost the entire land. When Mr. Goodrich came, he found that, though a church was organized soon after the formation of the society, it had

been practically extinct for years. He therefore gathered a new church, established conference meetings for prayer and praise, and sought to employ some other agencies that are helpful in promoting Christian growth. In 1860 Mr. Goodrich was summoned to what seemed an important field in his denomination, and resigned his pastorate, to take a professorship in a young Theological School in Canton, New York.

His successor was Rev. J. H. Farnsworth, who came here in 1861, and remained for a single year. The excitements of the war then raging tended, of course, to hinder his undertaking any new measures for the weal of his parish. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Goodrich was invited to return. It was known that the Theological School was imperfectly endowed, and the demand made by the country on her sons was diverting attention from the ministerial profession; and, as it seemed to Mr. Goodrich that he might render as efficient service in the position of a pastor as in the place where he was, he decided to accept the invitation. He therefore returned in October, 1862, and continued to hold the relation of pastor till February, 1875. He thus spent nearly sixteen years in his two pastorates in Pawtucket.

In 1866 the parish bought a more desirable site for a house of worship, and proceeded to rear a new temple on High street. It was completed early in 1868, and, on January 30th, was dedicated to the service of the God and Father of all by appropriate religious services. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., of Boston. The edifice was an ornament to the town, and promised to be a signal help to the parish; but the fierce tornado of September, 1869, demolished the steeple, flung down the ponderous bell, blew in the windows, seriously shattered the roof, and wrought other injury to the temple. The accident came at what seemed an inopportune hour, and subjected the parish to an expense of over seven thousand dollars, at a time when many of its most liberal members were crippled by financial embarrassments.

The successor of Mr. Goodrich was Rev. H. A. Philbrook, who entered on his work in May, 1875. Mr. Philbrook brought with him to his new field a reputation for ability and fidelity.

THE HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

No attempt is made to sketch the experiences of this church before 1838. On the 12th of March in that year, they invited Mr. Edward K. Fuller to become their pastor. The parish thus recognized had obtained possession of the meeting house built by the First Universalist Society in North Providence.

On the 11th of the following month Mr. Fuller was ordained, and the church which had been organized in the previous month was recognized. Rev. Mr. Fuller held the office of pastor till near the close of 1840. After taking some steps to call Rev. Silas Spaulding, who had just left the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, the younger church seems to have called both Rev. Samuel S. Mallory and Rev. Mr. Rodgers; but whether either of them accepted the charge, the records do not clearly show. From 1841 to 1845 was a trying period with all churches in the neighborhood, from the bitterness of political strife which then rent the State. And a feeble parish would find the burden doubly hard. In 1845, however, Rev. Daniel Round became pastor, and held the office for five years. On his departure, Mr. Warren Randolph, of Brown University, supplied the pulpit. He so commended himself to the people by his talents and zeal, that they invited him to assume the pastoral charge, and waited for him to finish his preparatory studies. In the interim, Rev. George Pierce, of Lowell, supplied the pulpit. Mr. Randolph was subsequently ordained, and installed as pastor, but soon accepted a call to a more inviting field of labor in Providence.

This was in 1852. The church remained for a time with-

out a formal pastor, but in 1854 Rev. Arthur A. Ross accepted the charge, and labored with consecration and earnestness for two years. For a few months after him Rev. Jonathan Brayton officiated, but soon withdrew from failing health. From 1857 till near the close of 1864, Rev. A. Sherwin was pastor. Like other pastors, he beheld his labors crowned with special success in 1858, and left the church, at the close of his pastorate, with far greater numbers than it had when he assumed the charge. For a year and a half the parish was destitute of a settled pastor, though it was supplied much of the time by Mr. Charles H. Spalding, of Brown University. Mr. Spalding had meanwhile been invited to take the pastoral charge, and was ordained to the work of the ministry on July 26th, 1866. Rev. Mr. Spalding began his ministry with bright hopes, and labored with much success, till an unlooked for calamity occurred. The meeting house took fire on January 25th, 1868, and was burned to the ground.

The parish resolved to rear a new temple on the old site, and meantime held their meetings and the Sunday school in neighboring halls. But, although the congregation received some aid from other churches and individuals, the pecuniary burden proved more than they could bear. Rev. Mr. Spalding accepted a call to Pittsfield, Mass., and was succeeded for a short period by Rev. W. C. Wright. After him came Rev. C. C. Williams, who strove by sacrifice and zealous toil to enable the parish to retrieve its pecuniary affairs. In vain, however; the load of indebtedness was too great, and the temple passed from their hands, as its predecessor had passed from the hands of the Universalists. The edifice was bought by the town for the accommodation of the High School.

Since the sale of their house of worship, the parish have held their meetings in Railroad Hall on Broad street, and the Masonic Temple on Mill street. The preachers have largely come from Brown University, and the church and people are still toiling, and praying, and hoping for brighter days.



THE FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.

In 1820, or soon after, a Baptist church was organized on the east side of the river. The leaders in the enterprise were Elder Ray Potter and Mr. Daniel Greene. Mr. Greene seems to have been subsequently ordained. In 1822 the congregation associated with them began to worship in a sanctuary on School street, near where the Brick School House stood, and where the Town Hall now stands. A mental conflict appears to have arisen on some point, and Rev. Mr. Greene was confirmed in the pastoral care of the parish. In the outset the parish seem to have favored the extreme of independency; but that sympathy which leads men to seek one another's coöperation and help, led them finally to ask fellowship from an organized denomination.

In the course of time the parish reared the house which they now occupy, close by the Town Hall. It was about the year 1836 that the church was brought into vital connection with the Free Baptist denomination. In 1850 Rev. A. D. Williams assumed the pastoral charge of the parish. He brought the reputation of scholarship, and wielded a potent influence on both his own congregation and the community wherein he had come to dwell. He was succeeded in 1856 by Rev. J. Erskine, who remained for but a short time. He bore the reputation of a conscientious, unassuming man. Mr. E. L. Clark, just from Brown University, supplied the pulpit from the close of 1857. He was with the parish during the memorable year of 1858, and won many converts to the church. After him came the Rev. Mr. Dow, who retained the pastoral charge for a season. To him succeeded Rev. Mr. Church, who has left the reputation of an earnest, fervid preacher, and an upright man. In 1867 Rev. Mr. Hyatt was engaged as pastor, and for the next five years labored in word and deed. In 1872 Rev. David Boyd took charge of the parish and remains the pastor. Marked by much energy and industry, Mr. Boyd has the sympathies of his Christian brethren, and their wishes for his spiritual prosperity and success.

TRINITY CHURCH.

In 1845 a desire which had been deepening for some time, for the formation of another Episcopalian church, was gratified. The rector and members of St. Paul's Church sent forth with their blessing a band of brethren to plant a new church east of the river. A house of worship was built on Main street, and the first rector was Rev. James C. Richmond. For a few years he continued as teacher of the parish, and was then succeeded by Rev. Mr. Mulcahey. Mr. Richmond was a man of varied talents, and some rare endowments; but his course had been so erratic, that the church was reorganized in 1851. Since that time it has been in general harmony with the powerful denomination wherewith it is connected.

This church has not been marked, however, by the same stability of the pastoral relation that has characterized its sister church on the other side of the river. After the reorganization named, Rev. George F. Cushman discharged the duties of rector acceptably for a couple of years. His immediate successor was Rev. Julius S. Townsend, who held the pastoral office for between five and six years. Feeble health seems to have constrained him to resign. In 1859 Rev. John M. Peck assumed the pastoral care, and remained rector for a little over a year. In October, 1860, Rev. Edward DeZeng began his labors, but remained for but a single year. A few months' vacancy occurred, and then Rev. George W. Brown was called to the rectorship, and resided here from March, 1862, till July, 1867. In 1868 Rev. S. O. Seymour took the charge of the parish, and retained it for more than six years. He enjoyed, while here, the reputation of a courteous citizen, an active friend of education, and a faithful pastor. In December, 1874, Trinity Church obtained for its eighth rector Rev. Samuel R. Fuller. An inviting field of labor is before him, and it is wished that he may not soon give place to a successor,

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

No formal organization of the denomination of Friends existed in Pawtucket till a comparatively recent date. The former pages of this narrative, however, have frequently mentioned members of this band. In the latter half of the last century Job Scott, who resided not far from where the toll-gate more recently stood on the Providence turnpike, was an eminent preacher. Beside him, there were in Pawtucket Daniel Anthony, Oziel Wilkinson, Benjamin Arnold, and Timothy Greene, who were all men of influence, and staunch Friends. There was at the time when they were on the stage what was called the Providence Monthly Meeting. The name probably dated from a time when Providence was undivided; for its sessions seem to have been held alternately at Providence and Smithfield. And beside the persons already named, Moses Brown, William Almy, and Thomas Arnold, whose names have already appeared in this sketch, and Joseph Harris, of Smithfield, were members of this meeting.

But the Friends hold meetings more often than monthly. On first days and in the middle of the week they gather for worship; and the Friends resident in this neighborhood, from a century ago and upward down to about thirty years since, were wont to go to Providence or Smithfield. To understand the polity of the Friends it may be proper to mention that the Rhode Island Yearly Meeting embraces all the Friends of New England. Beside this larger body, however, there are local gatherings and organizations. There are quarterly meetings, monthly meetings, and the weekly and semi-weekly gatherings. The two last are specially for worship; the others are both for worship and for business.

No religious body, however, is free from agitation. Only where an organization is dying can there be utter stagnation. Differences of opinion arose among the Friends in New England about thirty years ago, and controversy waxed somewhat warm. It were improper in this sketch to narrate the points

at issue, or the course of the contention. Suffice it to say, that, as two cannot pleasantly walk together unless they are agreed, there was a tacit resolution formed to separate. Outside parties have designated the different bands of Friends by the names of the respective leaders in the controversy; but the Friends themselves disavow these designations. They prefer to describe the different fragments of their body as the larger branch, and the smaller branch. Representatives of the latter class were living in this neighborhood, and proceeded, about thirty years ago, to erect a house of worship on what was then called Jenks street. It is now known, however, as East avenue. Twice a week, therefore, they and their successors have continued to meet for worship, and monthly meetings also assemble there of their brethren from other parts of the State.

SOCIETY OF THE NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH.

This society begins its records with the following account, under date of April 8th, 1840:

“Samuel Lord and family moved from Providence to Pawtucket. On the following Sabbath, April 12th, Messrs. Charles Pratt, Samuel and James Lord, and families, united in worship, and met at the house of James Lord. Mr. Pratt read the sermon, and they resolved thus to continue.”

Years rolled away before the little band increased sufficiently in numbers and ability, to undertake to rear a house of worship. In 1854, however, a legal meeting was called, by warrant of Apollos Cushman, Esq., to organize the first society of the New Jerusalem Church in Pawtucket. This meeting was held on April 22d, and organized a society of fifteen members. At that meeting they appointed a committee of one — Clark Sherman — to build a house of worship.

It was reared as soon as practicable, and dedicated to the service of God on October 5th of that year. The dedicatory services were performed by Rev. Thomas P. Rodman, Reg-

ular church services began at that time, and have not been intermitted since. During that time, however, there has only once been a settled pastor, and he for a single year. Rev. E. C. Mitchell thus officiated from October 5th, 1865, to October, 1866.

In the absence of a formal preacher, however, a reader is appointed to read the services and a sermon. Once a quarter or oftener an ordained clergyman is present, who administers the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

A Sunday school is carried on, and frequently on Sabbath evenings there is a gathering of the society for chanting and religious conversation.

The number of members of the society at present is twenty-four. The temple is on Elm street.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

This church sprung from the missionary labors of the rector of Trinity Church, and a few of his parishioners. On Sunday, November 1st, 1868, a Sunday school was started in Atlantic engine hall. Beside the rector, there were three persons present as teachers, and eighteen children.

Church services were commenced on the evening of February 10th in the following year, at the above named hall. Rev. Mr. Seymour continued his labors in this new enterprise from the beginning till Easter Sunday, 1872. After this period Rev. G. Coggeshall had charge of the work till the winter of 1873-4.

The corner-stone of a house of worship was laid on March 7th, 1872, by Bishop Clark, assisted by Revs. G. Coggeshall, S. O. Seymour, E. H. Porter, and S. H. Webb. The opening service was held Sunday, June 23d, 1872.

On the Sunday following Easter, 1874, Rev. B. Eastwood took charge of the undertaking. He had ten assistants, and seven classes in the Sunday school. Most of his helpers came from Trinity parish. At present, however, there are

eighteen classes, all taught by members of the home parish ; and the roll of the school, including officers and teachers, contains two hundred names.

The parish outgrew the little temple, and, in 1875, it was found necessary to enlarge it. This was accordingly done, so as to double its seating capacity. The expense incurred was \$3400. The sacred edifice will accommodate three hundred and twenty-five persons.

PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHAPEL.

This chapel is situated on Fountain street, at the head of Gooding. It was reared to accommodate a promising Sunday school that has been gathered by the missionary labors of the Central Falls Baptist Church. The lot for the edifice was given by Messrs. Greene & Daniels, and the edifice itself is a plain structure, 50 by 30 feet, neatly painted, and commodiously arranged.

The school was established on the last Sunday in November, 1867, and its sessions were held for some time in Atlantic engine hall. The increasing interest in the school, and its steady growth in numbers, stimulated its friends to rear the chapel. It cost \$2000, and was dedicated on the evening of April 5th, 1876. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Providence, and the dedicatory prayer was offered by Rev. Preston Gurney, of Central Falls.

The zeal and liberality already shown by the laborers in this school are prophetic of success. In a few years an energetic parish will doubtless be formed, and demand the erection of a larger temple.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

The subjoined account of the Roman Catholic churches was furnished by Rev. P. G. Delany. Mr. Delany, from his long residence in Pawtucket, has become a household name in thousands of families; and his general courtesy and

untiring industry have largely forwarded the great work which the denomination wherewith he is connected have performed in this town:

The Catholic community, which now forms so large and important a part of our population, has existed in Pawtucket since the year 1827. Before this date there may have been a few Catholics in the town, as there were in Providence even as early as 1813, when it is known the celebrated Dr. Chevereaux, as well as his companion, Dr. Matignon, visited the latter city and celebrated Mass for its Catholic inhabitants. If any of the same faith resided then in Pawtucket, they received spiritual ministrations from those missionaries.

It was only in the year 1828 that the Rt. Rev. Dr. Fenwick, Bishop of Boston, in whose diocese Rhode Island was then included, appointed the Rev. Father Woodley as the first resident priest in this State, to minister to the Catholics of Pawtucket and Providence. Whilst attending to this mission he resided at the old home beyond the toll-gate, known as the Carpenter house.

In the same year, Bishop Fenwick visited Pawtucket, and called upon David Wilkinson, Esq., to acknowledge that gentleman's generous donation to the Catholics,—a lot of land, 125 feet square, on which to build a church. The church, a very small building, was erected the following year, and Mass was celebrated in it for the first time by Father Woodley.

This was the second Catholic church ever erected in Rhode Island. That in Newport was the first, being fitted out for worship one year earlier. In this charge Father Woodley was succeeded by Father Corry in 1830; and he again was replaced by Father Conelly in 1833, who attended Providence and Pawtucket till the year 1835. Rev. Fathers Lee and McNamee took his place up to the year 1844, when the Rt. Rev. Dr. Tyler was consecrated bishop of the new diocese of Hartford, comprising the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Rev. James Fitton, who still lives in Boston, was then deputed to Pawtucket, where he remained for one year. His place was filled in 1847 by the Rev. Joseph McNamee, who took up his residence in Pawtucket and devoted his whole attention to that town, where the Catholics had considerably increased in numbers. For six years Father McNamee labored with zeal and devotedness for the spiritual good of the Catholic emigrants, who in his time came in great numbers to find a home and employment in the various branches of industry then established in Pawtucket. He died on the 28th of March, 1853. His successor was the Rev. P. G. Delany, the present pastor of the church of the Immaculate Conception.

At this date, Valley Falls, Attleboro and Ashton had Catholic congregations, all of whom, together with Pawtucket, were under the pastoral charge of Father Delany. He commenced his mission with a wide field of labor before him. By his exertions the Catholics acquired valuable tracts of land, where the future churches and schools were to be built.

For his congregation in Attleboro he projected a new church, and made extensive preparations for its erection, when, in 1856, at his request, another priest was placed in charge of that place. Soon after, Valley Falls needed a new church for the increasing Catholic population of that town, who were then obliged to attend religious exercises at St. Mary's, Pawtucket.

With the coöperation of those pious, generous Catholics who subscribed, Father Delany had the pleasure of seeing that beautiful church, St. Patrick's, completed in 1860. In the summer of that year it was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Dr. McFarland, assisted by Dr. Conroy, of Albany, and several other clergymen. With very little debt remaining, it was then resigned into the hands of a new pastor.

Pawtucket could now receive the undivided attention of Father Delany. Here, by the side of the old St. Mary's lot, he purchased from the proceeds of a fair all the land extend-

ing from the old church as far as the convent. The persons from whom the land was bought were: Job Bennett, Mrs. Collins, of Albany, and Thomas D. Forsyth, of Lowell, Mass.

The old church was enlarged now for the second time, to accommodate the large congregation that thronged to it, and, after various improvements made in the church and the cemetery annexed to it, the next care of the pastor was to build a school where the children of his flock might have the benefit of an education from the Sisters of Mercy, for whom he had applied to Bishop McFarland. The school and convent were completed in a short time according to the plans of the pastor, and under his immediate supervision. Six Sisters of Mercy were established in the new convent, in which they immediately opened a select Academy for day pupils. Together with the parish schools in which the children are taught free by the Sisters, this institution is a great benefit in the midst of the Catholic population of Pawtucket. The average attendance at the parish school is 300 children, whilst the Academy at the convent generally numbers 60 pupils.

The good influence of the Sisters as teachers amongst the young is well known, whilst the education they impart is of the high standard for which the schools of the Sisters of Mercy are noted, both in this country and in Europe.

Every year saw some new building erected or some improvement made around St. Mary's through the exertions of Father Delany and the generosity of his flock. The old residence of the pastor was somewhat enlarged, until after a few years it became advisable to replace it by a new and more commodious home. This was finally erected on a new lot of land in the rear of the church, purchased from Mr. J. Taylor, of Pine street. At this time the pastor was aided in his ministrations by two assistant clergymen, who resided with him until the year 1872, when Central Falls was given in charge of Rev. J. Smyth. As a resident pastor of that place he commenced the new church of the Sacred Heart, which is now completed.

Father Delany, at the same time, saw the necessity of another house of worship for the better accommodation of that part of his people who lived in the east side of the town. He solicited subscriptions for the project, and with \$8000 willingly placed in his hands by his people, commenced the new church of St. Joseph, on Walcott street. The lot for this church was purchased from Mr. Warren French.

In the spring of 1874 the building was nearly completed, and sufficiently fitted up to have divine service held in it. As it appeared that a new parish might be formed in that section of the town, Father Delany resigned St. Joseph's into the hands of a new pastor, Rev. H. F. Kinnerney.

Therefore, during the present pastor's time of residence in Pawtucket, and, in what was his first pastoral charge on his arrival here, having only one church for his people, there have been formed six new parishes, beside St. Mary's still in his charge, each of which has its own spacious and elegant church, its own resident pastor, and its own large congregation of from 1000 to 3000 souls each. Included in this list of parishes is that of Central Falls, established exclusively for the French Canadians, who now form one of the largest congregations in Pawtucket.

Is it needful to append any comments to this account of the religious history of the place? The formation of parishes, the rearing of temples, the establishment of churches, are signs of spiritual life. In this world everything that has a name to live must have an outward manifestation. Religion demands its altars, its fanes, and its institutions. The prosperity of the place, be it repeated, has been largely dependent on Christian agencies. History tells of fair cities in the east, that boasted a rich soil, a delicious climate, and unearthly beauty. They were, in the expressive words of the narrator, like the garden of Jehovah. A prospered family, to whom

it was granted to live where they pleased, were allured thither by the loveliness of the region. Did they find it a paradise? Far otherwise. Moral corruption sapped the people's prosperity, and crime woke the indignation of heaven, so that the lightnings set it on fire, and the waves of the sea rolled over its ashes. And that family who had with elation and prosperity sought a home in what seemed an Eden, were glad to hurry away penniless to escape ruin. *The principal inhabitants* of Pawtucket rightly felt more than four score years ago, small though the place was, that material prosperity is but a snare, unless religion hallow it; and they resolved to have a house for the God of Israel. And their children will lack the shrewdness of their fathers, if they cease to love the Christian sanctuary.

But it is time to finish this sketch. The experiences of the place have been outlined for a period of two hundred and twenty-one years. The date of the settlement of the western village of the town is only a generation later than the arrival of the Mayflower. Judged by the American standard, Pawtucket is a very old town. It has lacked those adventitious advantages, however, which contributed to the growth of New York, Boston, or Chicago. It has not a spacious harbor, nor is it the storehouse of a fertile region. It is one of those places, however, without which harbors must become almost solitudes, wherein the lonely fisherman dries his nets. Before marts can grow populous there must be artisans in their workshops, and scattered farmers on their homesteads. General prosperity is best secured by diversified industry. A country like ours, to be truly independent, must naturalize every useful branch of manufacturing. Joseph Jenks laid the foundation of the town's prosperity on a corner-stone of iron. He hammered thrift from his anvil, and flashed an invitation to other workers from the flame of his forge.

Slater imported here one of the inventions of his fatherland, notwithstanding the jealous care which his countrymen took to hide it from the world. A long race of shrewd, industrious, skillful men have followed in their steps, and waked the hum of industry on both sides of the Blackstone and the Pawtucket. Instead of the fifty families that dwelt here eighty-four years ago, there are thousands of families now. In lieu of the fifty houses which Dr. Benedict found here early in this century, the census of 1875 showed the whole number of dwellings to be two thousand, five hundred and twenty-one. Twenty-four hundred and seventy-nine of them were of wood, thirty-one of brick, and eleven of stone. Instead of the handful here with Joseph Jenks, whom the warriors of Philip scared away to the isle of Rhode Island two centuries ago, there are now nearly twenty thousand inhabitants in Pawtucket. (The precise number a year ago was eighteen thousand, four hundred and sixty-four.) The little one has become a thousand. Priority in starting novel branches of industry has compensated for the lack of great natural advantages, and enabled Pawtucket to outstrip hundreds of other towns. She begins a new century, therefore, of our national existence, under the impulse of her recent consolidation, with the freshness of youthful vigor and the energy of confident experience. Her past is sure. Renown, capital, skill, faith, are hers; and if God shall continue to smile on our common country, she may reckon on continued growth and thrift. Blessings be upon her children "above the blessings of their progenitors, unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills!"

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